
THE
HISTORY
OF THE
AMTSRATH GUTMAN.

Translated from the German.

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
AMTSRATH GUTMAN,
WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

PUBLISHED BY
ADOLPHUS BARON KNIGGE.

Translated from the German.

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1799.



P R E F A C E

OF THE

T R A N S L A T O R.

THE work from which the following pages are translated, have afforded the translator some amusement. The simple manners therein described, and the taste for simple pleasures therein inculcated, which are so congenial to a mind, unsophisticated by dissipation and luxury, have over-balanced, in the opinion of the translator, the dissimilarity of the author's sentiments, to his own on some subjects. But what struck him most forcibly was the absurdity of attributing to the author of such a book, principles inimical to all governments, and destructive of society itself—and of being a jacobin, an illuminé, or an anarchist, which has been done, both by the Abbé Barnel, and Professor Robinson;

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son;* and it was this circumstance, that principally induced the translator to put it in an English dress, in order that his fellow countrymen might judge a little of the opinions and writings of the man, who has been held up to public execration, as the disseminator of principles subversive of civil society; and who has been induced to quit Europe, in hopes of finding less party-spirit, prejudice and persecution, on the other side of the Atlantic.† The history of the Amtsrath Gutman, the sentiments of which exactly coincide with those in every other work of the Baron's, which the translator has seen, is a sufficient justification of his character, from all those unfounded and cruel calumnies that have been heaped on him, by persons who, considering the conduct of every one who discovered any thing like mildness and forbearance, towards those who thought differently from themselves, in the slightest degree

* See *Memoires pour servir à l'Histoire du Jacobinisme*, par l'Abbé Barnet, and *Proofs of a Conspiracy against all Religions, and all Governments*, by Professor Robison.

† In Baron Knigge's *Letters from Lorraine*, he announces his intention of going to America, to fly the scenes of horror and bloodshed, which were, and unhappily still are, exhibiting in every part of Europe.

gree, on religious and political subjects, as a tacit intrigue on their own conduct, thought proper to denounce, as jacobins, &c. every one, who would not go all lengths with them, or join in the war-hoop which the advocates for the established order of things, as it exists at present, in all the various and discordant governments of Europe, had raised against every thing, that bore the slightest appearance of liberty, or that tended to make the most trifling reform, even in what they themselves were forced to acknowledge to be abuses.

To those much in the habit of reading novels and romances, especially those of the present day, the following pages may appear insipid; as in them no violent conflicts of the passions are represented; no vices that harrow up the soul; no virtues, but what every one may have seen practiced, are delineated; nor any highly wrought scenes of horror are described. The author has contented himself with painting from nature, and working on those finer feelings, which every one has felt, whose taste is not vitiated by false pleasures, or his imagination unnaturally exalted, by the constant reading of writings, wholly addressed to the fancy. Such persons not finding here the wild scenery round ruined

castles, or abbeys peopled with a banditti, or the spirits of the dead; or a concealed monster, at last discovering his own daughter, in an innocent and interesting girl, at the moment he is going to assassinate her,* will probably shut up this book in disgust. Could, however, such persons prevail on themselves to read it through with patience, the translator thinks, he may venture to assure them, that at least neither their heart or their head would be the worse for it. Happy for them, if in so doing, they should at last discover that the greatest virtue may be displayed in the exercise of the simplest and most common duties, and the truest felicity enjoyed in the most humble and retired situations.

It is a satisfaction to the translator to be assured, that should even the generality of readers find little entertainment in this picture of simple manners, at least it can have no ill effect on the morals of any. Some opinions may be brought forward that are, perhaps, erroneous, or that, at least, appear so to the translator; but they are supported only by cool argument, not by any appeal to the passions. With regard to the execution of the work, in
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* See the much and justly admired romance of the Italian, by Mrs. Ratcliff.

its English dress, it is not for the translator to speak; unaccustomed to composition, and totally unambitious of literary fame, his only endeavour has been to express the author's ideas with clearness and precision.

The language of the Rosicrucians occasioned some difficulty to the translator; the more so as the tenets of those mystical sects are less known in England than on the continent, (particularly in Germany) and he therefore found it difficult to get acquainted with the peculiar mystical language they have adopted, or to make choice of appropriate and adequate terms in the English language, in which, few books have been written in that style, at least, as far as has come to the knowledge of the translator. Another difficulty arose from many words, but still more, titles, designed to express objects, to which, from the difference of manners, we have nothing that corresponds; as, for instance, *Amtman* or *Amtsrath*, the first of which denotes, indeed, a man whose principal business is agriculture; but of a very different rank in society, both for information and refinement of manners, from our farmers. He rents generally many farms, either from noblemen, or the petty Prince under whom he lives, some of

which farms, he again lets out. The *Amstrath* is also something similar, but rents only from the prince; has a title, or degree of rank annexed to his situation; sometimes also farms the taxes; and, in short, is rather to be considered as a civil officer under Government than a farmer. These two classes of men, something resemble the farmers general of land in France, under the old system, and the *Amtfrath* indeed seems to be something between the farmers general of land, and the farmers general of taxes. No class of men in England in the least corresponding either to the Amtman, or Amtfrath, there was consequently no term to be found in the language, to express the idea; the translator, therefore, thought it best to retain the German title; which he hopes, from what has been said, will not be unintelligible to the English reader: whenever similar reasons have induced the translator to retain a German expression, he has given the explanation of it in a note.

Thus much the translator has thought it necessary to say, in apology for having made use of German terms, and to account for his motives, in giving this little novel to the public; should it in any degree tend to remove from the mind
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of one of its readers, any of those false impressions he may have imbibed against its virtuous and respectable author, and at the same time, to make them more guarded, in judging of characters from report, or to recal a taste for calm and simple pleasures, or impress on the mind of any one of its readers, the conviction, that there is no situation, however humble and secluded from the world, in which all the happiness this life is capable of affording, can be found, the translator will be amply recompensed for his trouble.



THE
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AMTSRATH GUTMAN.

CHAP. I.

CONTAINS SOME FAMILY ANECDOTES, AND
OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE manorial lands of the late Privy Counsellor Baron von Fuerstenruf are, as every one knows, (or should any of my readers be so unfortunate, as never to have heard of this gentleman, let him now be informed that they are) as considerable as any in the principality of ***. The Privy Counsellor resided himself, on one of the manors called Mehlbach, ever since the year 1750; my father farmed this manor under him, and the house in which my parents lived, was only a small distance from the castle, which the old Baron made his habitation, or, if you please, his residence.

The Privy Counsellor had taken his leave of the court, because the Prince, whom he had served as minister, grand marshal, grand chamberlain, head-groom, intendant of music, and president of the councils of government and of war, had purchased from some higher potentate a grand order of knighthood, for a younger Privy Counsellor, whose more modern countenance began to please him better. The Baron von Fueritenrus, now naturally considered himself as a lost man, and requested his dismissal, which he obtained in the most gracious manner. He now resolved to pass the rest of his days in the sweet repose of a country life, respecting which, he had many pretty things to say, as well as of the blessings of independence, and of the ingratitude of princes. He was subject to frequent severe attacks of the gout, and as his lady also, who had been formerly lady in waiting at the same court, was almost blind, and at the same time afflicted with the rheumatism, and other complaints, they both thought that quiet, and the pure air of the country, would be equally salutary to their bodies and souls. I was just ten years old, (for I was born in the cold winter of 1740) when the Baron and Baroness made their entrance in form, in the little

little village of Mehlbach. The school-master of the village, had prepared a festival for the occasion; twelve children, with their hair well frizzed, and powdered very white, led by me and his daughter, were to go two and two, followed by the whole village, half an hour's walk from Mehlbach, to meet the carriage as it approached: we children were then to scatter a quantity of flowers, whilst the school-master struck up a cantata of his own composition; himself and our swine-herd sung the base: the other vocal parts were equally well provided for, and if the instrumental accompaniment could not be perfectly well filled up, nevertheless, an obligata trumpet, which was blown by a musician from Bremen, who happened at that time to be on a visit to his relations at this place, was by no means to be despised; I am now in possession of the different parts of this music, which shall appear at the next fair, neatly printed, provided a sufficient number of subscribers can be found for that purpose.

The Privy Counsellor Baron von Fuerstenruff appeared extremely well pleased, and even affected with this ceremony, got out of his carriage, and made a long harrangue to all his tenantry, who were collected together, which

was not indeed perfectly understood, as there were in it many French words, and fine courtly phrases, but which was, nevertheless, much admired, and perhaps even the more on that account. The schoolmaster was honored on the spot with the title of chanter, and as for myself, I received permission to go often to the castle, and admire the fine things that were unpacked one after the other, and placed in the great apartments, more especially when the Baron and his lady found that I was the son of their farmer.

It has been maintained, that old courtiers never can accustom themselves to another mode of life. All of them, whilst treading the smooth slippery ground, complain of constraint and disgust; but, at the same time, there are none of them but are attacked by the most oppressive ennui, as soon as they are placed in a more comfortable situation. This was the case at last with the Baron and his lady. After the first bustle, which a new establishment occasions, had subsided, they began to examine more minutely the local situation. They hobbled together through all the gardens, had their coffee brought to them in a neighbouring grove, or went into the fields to see the mowers at their work; but
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when these simple objects, that for us contented country people, had always new charms, had once been seen, they produced no more enjoyment to the vitiated taste of the noble pair. They, therefore, looked about them for society, drove in their carriage to visit the officers under government in the neighbourhood, and the country nobility, and received their visits in return; but they soon found that all these people could only talk on subjects that were little interesting to the Baron and his lady; they therefore gave up this interchange of visits, and lived in a solitary manner by themselves. In order now to have less of the fatiguing hours of idleness, they rose very late of a morning, took their chocolate very comfortably, fed the parrot, settled their affairs with the steward, then dressed themselves a little, and the forenoon was happily concluded by a luxurious dinner, at which they whiled away a great deal of time. After dinner they took a little nap, and in the evening the noble pair played piquet together, had the bill of fare for the following day brought them, took a light supper composed of few dishes, and then went to bed.

This uniform mode of life soon became habitual

bitual to them, and was persevered in for many years. The care of their infirm bodies, which were often, particularly in the cold season of the year, visited by violent attacks of the gout and rheumatism, interrupted however, sometimes, the accustomed order of the day, and, at last, they even found means to fill up many hours with devotion, as they had, every day, something read to them by the waiting woman or housekeeper, from some old sermon, prayer, or psalm book. But at times a little more variety was introduced into their mode of life. This happened when the nephew and future heir of the Privy Counsellor, who, to his cost, was ambassador from the court of *** to that of ***, came to spend some weeks with his uncle, in order to see with his own eyes, whether the old gentlemen would not soon, by an obliging death, enable him to pay his debts. As the Ambassador and his lady knew before hand the intolerable ennui that awaited them at Mehlbach, they generally brought with them some particular friends, and then things went on gaily at the castle. But I dwell too long on the noble family; let me return to myself and my family!

My

My father was of a respectable middle rank between a peasant and a gentleman,* a native of our village ; he had formerly entered into the suite of the Privy Counsellor Baron von Fuerstenruf, who was of the same age as himself, accompanied him on his travels as Valet de Chambre, and then was placed as steward on the manor, which he afterwards farmed, when he had acquired a greater knowledge of agriculture, and had got some money in marriage with my mother, whose name was Julia Langenbeck.

As my parents were already rather advanced in years when they married, there was no reason to expect a very large family ; they had, in fact, only two sons, the eldest of whom came into the world six years before me, and was early destined to learn the business of forester, in order hereafter to have that appointment to some nobleman. As soon, therefore, as he had been

* In the original the English word *gentleman* is made use of. It is difficult to know what signification a foreigner affixes to that word ; but, perhaps, he means that Gutman's father was a *freeman* in contradistinction to the *peasantry*, who the translator believes were generally attached to the soil in Germany, though not in such subjection to their Lords as in Poland, Russia, &c. *Note of the Trans.*

been confirmed by our clergyman, he was entrusted to the care of a relation, who had some appointment belonging to the forests in the principality of ***; but at the end of the very first year of his apprenticeship, that is to say, ten, months before the arrival of the Privy Counsellor Baron von Fuerstenruf, at Mehlbach, the evening of a day, in the morning of which he, my brother, had been hunting, he was missed, and all the endeavours of his master, as well as of my parents, to gain any intelligence of him, were fruitless.

As my father now considered me as his only support in old age, and as, by God's blessing and his own industry, he had acquired a property by no means inconsiderable for his situation, he resolved to spare no expence on my education, in which resolution he was strengthened by the favor the Baron shewed me, as I have already related. For he not only sent for me often to the castle, exhorted me to be industrious, and pious, and made me read something by way of trial, out of the sermons of the famous preacher Mr. Neumießer, on the difficulty of converting the Jewish heart, which may be had at the sacred library at Hamburgh,

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printed in the year 1719: but he also made me a present of a crown piece, and promised my father, that if he would give me a good education, he would take care of my future advancement.

I was therefore destined to devote myself to the profession of the law, and my parents already, in idea, saw me as sergnorial judge, enrich myself at the expence of the peasantry of Mehlbach. The old Baron approved of this plan; he hoped yet to live long enough to form a young man entirely for conducting the affairs of noble families. His principal object in this was, that such young man should one day put the family achieves in better order, and for the instruction of the world, write the very interesting history of the house of Fuerstenrus, which was an object that lay very near his heart. I have found among my father's papers, a plan for that purpose, drawn up by a certain manorial judge who lived in Mehlbach, whose name was Saneil Crisominus, and who has described therein most clearly, as well as with the greatest historical truth, the origin and remotest genealogy of this noble race. Probably the Privy Counsellor gave this plan to my father in order that it might serve as a guide to me hereafter

after in a similar work of so useful a nature. By the assistance of this plan, a great genealogical tree has been formed, and is hung up in a room in the castle, where it covers one of the walls from the top to the bottom. A ladder, dedicated expressly to that purpose, enabled any curious person to go and examine it, up and down, and on all sides, from the most venerable antiquity, to the latest periods.

I cannot resist the inclination I feel, to introduce in this place, a very short extract from the family history; and shall pay little attention to the ridicule of those who are accustomed to observe, respecting such families as carry back their origin at the farthest to the crucifixion of Christ; "that it is absurd to maintain such a thing, while every person acquainted with history knows, that the custom of taking family names is not yet four hundred years old, in Germany, and that it is therefore impossible to have authentic accounts of families before that period: that, besides, genealogy and pure noble blood stand in a very particular predicament, as they depend on the continuance of a long chain of virtuous and faithful wives, which is difficult to be found under the moon; and that, finally,

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such histories purely genealogical are perfectly uninteresting." I say I despise such objections, that I know for whom I write, and that even in this impious age of incredulity, there still exists a small circle of nobles, to whom my extract will be acceptable; therefore let me come to the business at once.

The founder of the most noble race of Fuerstenruf, was a natural son of one of the Pharaoh's kings of Egypt, and, in fact, of that very Pharaoh, who lost his life in the red sea. He sat with his father in a chariot of war, when that monarch was drowned in pursuing the children of Israel; but as our young gentleman was a pious youth, and was always fond of the Jews, an angel held him above the water, (probably by the bag of his hair) and brought him back to the shore, so that he was the only one of the Egyptians, who went out in pursuit of the Jews, who returned.

After this, there were some others of the ancestors of this family who distinguished themselves, and at last one who was gentleman of the bed-chamber to queen Cleopatra, and after Anthony had lost the battle of Actium, was carried prisoner to Rome, by Augustus, with the rest
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of the Egyptian court. On account of his good qualities he was soon restored to liberty, took a Roman name, and entered into the service of the Emperor; his son was secretly converted to the Christian religion.

One of his descendants was in the suite of the Emperor Adrian, when he made that very credible journey on foot, *Chapeanbas*, from Spain to the Euphrates.

Under Constantine the great, this family held a splendid rank in the empire.

In the sixth century, one of the ancestors of this family, was Secretary to the high Court of Justice, under the Emperor Justinian, his descendants left the east, and went back to Rome.

Ludwig, surnamed the broad shouldered, distinguished himself as a bold warrior, under the Emperor Lotharins.

In the year 1006, Curtius served Henry the holy (sometimes also called the limper, because according to the most credible historians, the Angel Michael dislocated his hip), in the war against Poland.

Under the Suabian Emperors, the ancestors of the Baron von Fuerstenruf were in great respect, and held high offices.

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The family name made its appearance for the first time in the fifteenth century, and Just von Fuerstenruf was invested with considerable lands, because he was an excellent hunter.

His next descendants distinguished themselves most famously in those days when the law of the strongest prevailed, by various successful enterprises against travelling merchants and the like.

In later times a Baron von Fuerstenruf presents himself, who through his wife, (it is not mentioned by what means) made his fortune with the Duke of Wirtemberg, and another who was invested with considerable possessions, because, as leading members of the assembly of the states of ***, he had been the means of making the peasantry pay twice as much taxes as they did before.

This little may suffice to show, by what merit this noble family had attained to such great consideration, and if I am again fallen into the fault of interrupting the narrative of my adventures, by giving an account of this family, the example of the greatest part of historical authors may, however, justify me; who when they profess to give the history of countries

countries and nations, employ themselves principally in detailing the circumstances of the life, and in relating anecdotes of certain great personages; which a foreign witling has compared to the conduct of a man, who when he is to celebrate the great actions that have been performed with a sword, loses sight of his object, in describing the spots of rust on it's blade.



CHAP.

CHAP. II.

YEARS OF MY YOUTH. CHANGES AT MEHLBACH.
A FEW MORE CHARACTERISTIC SKETCHES.

FOR the satisfaction of those readers, who, perhaps, from the title of this chapter, may imagine that I shall fatigue them with long accounts of the insignificant years of my childhood, I must at once, in the beginning, declare, that such is not my intention. Those who wish to see delineations of scenes from the school, and school boy tricks, may read our new German novels, which are full of them. I mean only in a hasty manner to repass those years, which are generally richer in pure innocent joys, than in important events, with almost every one who is not entirely neglected by nature and fortune.

The first instruction I received, which was not indeed very learned, although not entirely irrational, was from the schoolmaster, of whom already most honorable mention has been made,

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as musical director, and as having been raised to the rank of chanter on the arrival of the Privy Counsellor. He was, for the time when he lived, a very clever man, could decline his Latin cases, make himself respected, attended to, and obeyed by his scholars, without using the rod too frequently, and understood the art of separating a principal question in the catechism into so many little ones, that if by that means, the ideas were not rendered more perspicuous, at least, the fault often lay more in the obscurity of the subject, than in the address of the teacher in explaining it.

But from the time I was only nine years old, our respectable clergyman, Mr. Westerberg, took on himself the employment of giving me private instructions, for which my father shew'd his gratitude to him in the best manner he was able, and whenever we killed an ox, a sheep, or a pig, or any other animal, some part of it was always sent to his kitchen. I am greatly indebted to this pious and sensible clergyman; his disposition was mild, serene and sociable, his morals irreproachable, his principles firm, though indulgent. As all persons in distress had recourse to him, and as his heart did not easily permit him to turn away the necessitous
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from his door, he often gave more to relieve the wants of others, than a better calculating and cooler judgment would have approved. He was, for this reason, very poor, and made sometimes a miserable figure with his threadbare coat and his air of humility at the table of the Privy Counsellor, who, accustomed to judge of men by their outward appearance, seldom invited him: and as his sermons were not formed of high sounding words and ornamental phrases, but of the simple language of the heart, did not appear to have any high opinion of his talents; the less so, as Mr. Westerberg entered into no political conversation, read no newspapers, and could relate no anecdotes of the neighbourhood.

I pursued my studies under the direction of this worthy man 'till my fourteenth year, and my father was just thinking of sending me to some foreign university, when the death of the old Privy Counsellor changed the scene at Mehlbach, for which reason he deferred my journey. The Baroness now retired to a sister of her's, who was a canoness, and the ambassador von Fuerstenruef came with all his family to take possession of the property.

As it was discovered, on closer examination,
c. that.

that great sums were to be paid to the widow, as well as many other legacies also, and as the creditors of the ambassador, who had always consoled themselves with the prospect of this happy period, now became importunate for payment, so that, in fact, the gain from the inheritance was not very considerable: the ambassador considered it as necessary to take up his residence, for a time, at Mehlbach, where he could live with less expence. He therefore, in the first place, gave up his appointment as ambassador, which, in fact, was not of great importance, and made his tenants happy by his gracious presence.

The ambassador von Fuerstenruf, was at that time a man of five and thirty years of age, well-made, extremely courteous, complaisant, and talkative, but not conversable, (for those are two very different things). He did not speak to interchange his thoughts with those of others, but he prated, without ceasing, in order that no one might have time to turn the conversation on a subject for which he had not prepared himself. With all this he appeared very lively; but this appearance was, in fact, only a mechanical vivacity, which I have since so often perceived in what are called people

ple of the world ; a vivacity, which arises, not from the innate fire of a rich imagination, which every moment seizes new objects, and seeks new employment ; not from an impulse prompting them to engage in some pursuit and to be in action ; but from a ceaseless itching to shine, to please, and to attract attention. He was desirous also to be considered as a man of learning, a connoisseur, a man of taste, a promoter of every thing that is good ; as a condescending, benevolent friend of mankind ; in short, as possessing all those qualities for which others are praised as possessing separately.

He was particularly flattered when any one appeared inclined to believe that he had affairs on his hands of the highest importance, an extensive correspondence, and great influence in the cabinets of princes. For this reason, he used often to send the most unimportant letters by express, or to have such letters sent in that manner to him. He loved, as may also be concluded, pomp, splendor, and tumultuous joys.

His lady possessed in reality nearly the same great qualities, with the addition of a slight tincture of coquetry ; but she could, at the same time, affect a certain simplicity and mo-

deft of manners, appear to poffefs a tafte for the beauties of nature, and for fimple, domeftic, and rural pleasures, and could give ftill greater charms to her pretty little perfon, by a cadenced, foft, and apparently artlefs language. In the country, fhe played the part of an induftrious houfewife, fpun even, and knew fo well how to gain the confidence of my father, who was, however, an old practitioner, that it only coft her a couple of fmooth words, to induce him to advance her a fum of money. But thofe who faw her in great circles, found her quite a different kind of being. There, fhe was completely the woman of the world, was ftill in exacting homage, or giving encouragement with her eyes, in making happy, and in difquieting, could talk for hours together on miferable, contemptible trifles, be witty at the expence of others, fuffer filent merit when not concealed under the mask of fafhion to remain unnoticed, collected a circle of the empty headed nobility about her, and devoted herfelf to fenfelefs adulation.

It remains for me yet to describe the beft character in this noble family group, that is to fay, the only fon of the ambaffador, who was nearly of the fame age as myfelf. He was a
generous,

generous, amiable, and lively boy, uncorrupted, full of warm feelings for every thing good and noble ; all nature, all sincerity. He could not at all bear any injustice, any oppression that befel others ; his soul appeared formed for love and friendship. With all this he had an excellent head, less however for creating and inventing, than for collecting and arranging, a lively imagination, which was easily excited, and a decided bent for undisturbed independence. He never endeavoured to oppress or eclipse others who had less abilities, could not enjoy any thing at the expence of another ; but, he was also unwilling that others should oppress him, or disturb him in his own enjoyments. This manner of thinking, which grew continually stronger afterwards, and his heart, which was too compassionate, too affectionate, too open, have, in the course of his life, as will be hereafter related, created for him many unhappy hours.

This noble-minded young man has to thank his tutor, Mr. Schmidt, who knew how to preserve and expand every virtuous inclination that budded in the soul of his pupil, that he has grown up with such a character, in the house of his parents, so very different to him

in disposition, and not with one less amiable. The young Fuerstenruf had been entirely under the care of Mr. Schmidt, from his sixth year; the ambassador and his lady, as is generally the case with great people, troubled themselves but little about the education of their son; but, at the same time, they did not put any obstructions in the way of Mr. Schmidt; and as they were very desirous of being considered as more enlightened than other persons of their rank, they even treated the tutor in a manner sufficiently friendly and polite.

As the ambassador had put into execution his determination of remaining, at least for some time, at Mehlbach, Mr. Schmidt looked round for a companion for his pupil. He cast his eyes on me, and after he had made enquiries respecting my disposition, and consulted on that subject the good Mr. Westenberg, he proposed to the ambassador that I should participate in the hours of instruction of the young nobleman, and that I should be permitted besides to be the companion of Charles, (for that was the name of the youth) during the greatest part of the day. Mr. von Fuerstenruf agreed so much the rather to
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this proposal, as Mr. Westerberg had already often recommended me to him, and mentioned to him the favourable disposition, which the late Privy Counsellor had shewn towards me. My parents were very much rejoiced at this turn in my fortune, and I had now the happiness of enjoying for some years, such an education, as my parents could not have procured me any other way. By this means, my heart soon united itself, in the strongest manner, to my noble young friend; my manner of thinking, I may venture to say without vanity, was similar to his, in many respects, only I was less lively and less active; was not so easily carried away by agreeable or disagreeable impressions, and discovered, in the instructions we received together, more application and less genius. Charles soon formed a sincere friendship for me, was inseparable from me; and it was not long 'ere I had, by constantly associating with him; so refined my manners, which before partook a little of those of the peasants, that every one not very perfectly acquainted with the smell, or to speak more like a sportsman, with the *scent* of nobility, would have taken me for a nobleman's son.

Thus then flew away the years of my youth, undisturbed and serenely; and I did not afterwards create for myself more bitter hours, by perverseness and useless fretting, during a life, often so full of troubles; for that I am certainly indebted to the fortunate circumstance that neither necessity, constraint, ill treatment, ill-applied severity, or neglect, have embittered the enjoyment of the spring-days of my life; or untuned or depressed my mind, naturally inclined to gaiety. I have always been more disposed to listen to hope, than to fear or anxiety; and frequently the pressure of grief has already passed away, before I have had time to convince myself of its actual existence. The reader will hear, by and by, that I have met with very unfortunate circumstances, but God be praised, I have always considered these misfortunes, only as transitory acquaintances, and have never got thoroughly intimate with sorrow.

We have already spoken of the Ambassador's love of show; now it was really his intention, to retrench his expences in the country, and he put this intention partly in execution, but still there was so much expended in his housekeeping, that the state of his debts was not much diminished.

nished. A whole tribe of servants, most of them idle, immoral, and shameless, were always running about his house, and deceived and robbed their master to the best of their power. Mehlbach was also never free from strangers, who, with their servants and horses, lived upon Mr. von Fuerstenruef. He had, in expectation of inheriting a great fortune, invited many persons of his acquaintance, when he quitted his ambassadorship, to come and see him; they therefore came, one after another, particularly in the spring, to recruit their health in the country. Sometimes it was *un ancien Capitaine de Dragons*, who wanted to try Hofman's pills at Mehlbach; sometimes it was an old paralytic gentleman of the bed-chamber, to whom Kumpf's medicine had been prescribed; sometimes a Secretary of State, who came to drink his Pyrmont water at this place. Such persons always brought with them other guests, who had not been invited, to partake of the fine Pâtés, and the old Rhenish wine. I had thus an opportunity of knowing many singular originals; but often Mr. Schmidt, my friend Charles and myself, withdrew ourselves from the bustle in the castle, and spent a couple of hours at the farm with my old father, who was al-

ways cheerful ; or took a pleasant walk with the worthy Mr. Westerberg.

It is true, that by the extravagance of the Ambassador, the trades-people, inn-keepers, and day-labourers in the village, got money ; but if you bring into the opposite side of the account, how much his rascally servants, corrupted, by degrees, the manners of the villagers, how, by their means, an inclination for good living, idleness, and every kind of luxury and dissipation, was diffused among the peaceful huts of the peasants, the affair has quite a different appearance, and we may, by this little specimen, calculate the greater, often too much boasted advantages, which a capital derives from the residence of the court.

With all this, the Ambassador was constantly talking of œconomy, and made all kinds of foolish experiments, in order to scrape together again, what he had squandered in an useless manner. Thus, for instance, he had œconomical ovens built, and it was calculated, that now in each oven, there would be yearly five dollars worth less of wood burnt ; but the first building cost so much, that forty years would not be sufficient to replace it with interest, the capital that was laid out upon it.

My

My father also, had apparent advantages from the residence of his landlord, as he supplied the castle with butter, eggs, and poultry; but, unfortunately, every thing was set down to the account, and that account never paid: the rent, however, was always received long before it became due. For this reason, my father always frowned, when the Maitre d'Hotel waddled down to give fresh orders. This Maitre d'Hotel, a little plump man, half bound in calf, was extremely talkative, and ridiculously proud of the grandeur of his office. I remember he once came to my father, with a very important air, to order a fat capon, which was to be sent to table on the birth-day of the Ambassador's lady, "But let it be very fat my dear steward*," added he, "yes, very fat, that I beseech you; Almighty God, if it should be otherwise, if it should be lean! friend of my heart, I should

c 6

sink

My father was always called *steward*, after the arrival of the Ambassador, because he had formerly been so; he did not like it very well. A farmer is a free man, who rents land; a steward is a servant. But great people have a different manner of thinking; and what must we say, when an artist of merit, a painter for instance, in order to have more pretensions to external respect, must solicit as a favour, the title of valet de chambre to an elector.

sink into the earth! apropos, my dear, do you know what I did yesterday? Our noble master is so fond of macaroni! now between ourselves, the cook had dressed it very bad the last time, very bad, do you hear, miserable. Now yesterday again, it was on the bill of fare; so said I, do you hear Mr. Frenchman, said I, let me dress the macaroni to-day for once myself! he agreed to it, and do you know I dressed it; and may I not die in peace, if our noble master did not eat three times his usual quantity of it."

Although young Fuerstenruf derived little pleasure from all this expence or, indeed, from the manner of life carried on in the house of his parents, yet Mr. Schmidt thought, that since his pupil had already passed his seventeenth year, consequently would soon be considered as a young man, and could not always avoid joining the company, by which means many hours would be lost; he thought, I say, that it was not right he should remain any longer in his father's house. His proposal to go to Leipzig with the young man, in order that he might compleat his studies at that university, was approved of, and I was obliged to be separated from the beloved friend of my youth. Indeed, as I also was sufficiently prepared to go to an university,

sity, and as my father still persevered in his plan of letting me study, I might have made choice of the same university, and have been able to live in the society of young Fuersternuf, but my father was prejudiced against Leipzig, where he also thought it was too expensive living, and feared also, that by my intimacy with my friend, I might be introduced into too high company; in short, I was to go to the university at Jena. Preparations were immediately made for this purpose; we both of us set off on the same day. My father gave me at parting, an affectionate blessing, and a short, but energetic exhortation; my mother, some hard dollars she had saved up, and some sausages; and the clergyman Mr. Wetterberg, a bible finely bound, and then we set off cheerfully; I went part of the journey in the same carriage with my friend, which I quitted afterwards for the post-coach, and arrived at Jena about Easter, in the year 1758.

CHAP. III.

GUTMAN'S STUDIES, AND HIS RETURN TO THE
PLACE OF HIS NATIVITY.

AT the time I went to Jena, the manners of the students at that place were still very coarse. Most of those who are called men of learning, retain, during the whole course of their lives, a slight shade of the manners which they acquired at the university, and this is particularly visible in those who studied at the same period as myself at Jena. I believe, however, I am an exception to this rule; from my youth, I had always been accustomed to modest and civil manners; they were congenial to my disposition, and my daily visits at the house of the Ambassador, had made the society of persons of refined manners, a necessity to me. On this account, therefore, I avoided almost entirely, associating with the students at Jena, and only visited, in my leisure hours, at the houses of some of the professors, into which I had obtained admission,
by

by letters of recommendation ; besides which, during the first part of my residence at that place, my correspondence with the friend of my youth, formed my most agreeable recreation. But the troubles of war, of which Saxony was at that time the theatre, not only interrupted the course of our correspondence, but Leipzig and its environs being also much exposed to danger, the parents of young Fuerstenrnf thought it adviseable to let him finish his studies at Leyden. He had not been able to find any opportunity of acquainting me with this change, before his departure, therefore never received the letters I wrote him from that time ; our correspondence was thus interrupted, and as it had once been stopped, and we were afterwards always removed farther and farther from each other, and entered into other different connections, this intercourse was not again renewed.

Agreeable to the intentions of my father, I was to devote myself to the study of the law ; I readily acknowledge, however, that I could find but little relish for this branch of learning. I attended indeed assiduously the colleges of Justice, but other sciences had more charms for me. I began my course of studies, as is the custom, with theoretical philosophy, which, however,

was

was near giving me a disgust for all study: I cannot even now refrain from thinking, that the whole load of metaphysical and speculative knowledge, is not worth a straw. What new truth have we discovered by this means? What do we know more of the nature of the soul and its operations; of the manner in which that which we call spirit, acts on the visible world; of our former and future state; of the eternal incomprehensible being of the Godhead; of the power that makes every thing grow and flourish?—What do we know more at present of all this, than we knew 3000 years ago? Who has ever discovered how it is that I can move my arm or my foot at pleasure? What has the whole herd of speculative philosophers in all ages served us up, but old fancies, visions, and hypotheses in a new form, and enveloped in a new invented phraseology, in order to be able to repeat once more, things that have been said already a thousand times; arguments full of evident contradiction, and folly swimming in the troubled waters of learning? We now laugh at the old scholastic gladiators; but what have the inventors of new systems given us, that is better, or more satisfactory?

“ Strange

“ Strange, all this difference should be,
“ ‘Twixt tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee!’”

It is only by reasonings a posteriori, by experience, by exact observation of what is visible, that we can, by degrees, throw more light on those objects. The study of nature, in all its departments, physic, chemistry, astronomy, and all the branches of mathematics; these, and the sciences, by whose assistance we may venture to attempt to gain an insight into the sublime œconomy, of the externally great and good Creator, with as much certainty as is compatible with our present situation. All the rest, seems to me, idle loss of time. And as for what is called practical philosophy, we do not want men of learning and philosophers to anatomize to us our moral and religious duties. The whole sum of these duties, with the motives toward them, are contained in the three following rules:
“ Endeavour to render thy station as happy as possible! in order to effect which to the greatest perfection, do unto others, as thou wouldst others should do unto thee! and when thou art in peace with thyself, and thy brethren, seek then to heighten thy enjoyment, by endeavouring as much as is in the power of such a creature of flesh and bones, to attain such a degree
of

of intellectual perfection, and purity of inclination, as may make thee more resembling the most perfect being, more agreeable to him, and more worthy his paternal care. "•

These appear to me to be the very simple motives to every kind of virtue which wisdom and sound reason offer to the poor peasant, just the same as to the rich prelate, and for which it is not necessary to ransack the libraries of colleges, or to write great books. Those, who besides these motives, find others also in their belief in the revealed will of God, have a double impulse, and a double conviction that they do not err; and those, who besides this, are endowed with a natural instinctive disposition for virtue, are spared many an effort, and many a combat between their reason and their senses and inclinations.

: Readers of reflection will, I hope, pardon me for having for a moment interrupted my history; by these serious considerations; and I would advise those, who only wish to read fables and idle tales, to lay down this book.

A few

• Is this the language of a man, who wishes to reduce society to the state of roaming Savages? For that is one of the Abbé Barnet's accusations against Baron Knigge.

Note of Transf.

A few words more only, concerning my studies! I learnt at Jena about as much law as might suffice to enable me to fill the office of a country justice, although I reflected with pain that I was to embrace this profession; but natural history, physics, and mathematics, continued to be my favourite studies, and I applied myself, in particular, with so much zeal to the latter science, that I was thinking of writing home to obtain permission to change the plan of my future destination, and to open to myself a path at the university, when a letter I received from thence, at once put an end to this intention.

It was near the end of the year 1761, that I received from my mother the account of the death of my father! She expressed, at the same time, her desire to see me at home as soon as possible, in order that I might assist her in the management of the farm.

My good father had not, like so many other people, been afraid of the thoughts of his release, but had provided before hand for that event, in which case, his brother-in-law, an honest farmer who lived in the neighbourhood, was to carry on the business of the farm, till the expiration of the lease; for, as has been said, he
had

had other plans for me, and in fact also, the agreement he had made with Mr. von Fuerstenruf, was not so very advantageous, as to make him consider it as desirable that his family should remain in the farm longer than the present term. My uncle had, however, in the interim, engaged himself in other extensive concerns, and had formed great establishments for making saltpetre and pot-ashes, which he could not leave, so that there remained nothing else for me to do, but to take up the business of agriculture myself.

I cannot say that this kind of life was particularly disagreeable to me, the less so as it left me sufficient leisure to pursue my studies at the same time. It would, however, have been better if I had first entered a little into the world, and mixed with mankind before I settled myself, as it were, as the master of a family.

A person, however, soon takes pleasure in any occupation, that is in itself useful and profitable; the labours of the country have also much more variety than the gentry of the town imagine. They furnish, in every season of the year, employments of various kinds, that preserve body and soul strong and vigorous. The pleasure of seeing what we have sown, planted and cultivated

tivated with care, prosper under our hands, and even the little inquietudes respecting wind and weather, occasion variety in this scene, apparently so uniform, and those who have a taste for the beauties of nature, find still higher relish in their enjoyments. I had not been a stranger to those things from my youth; therefore I soon acquired the necessary knowledge, and shortly I gave up all thoughts of entering into any other profession.

My first care was to examine into the state of the property that my father had left behind him. This I considered as so much the more my duty, because, if ever my lost brother should be found again, he would with justice require of me his share of the inheritance; but the result of my examination was not very consolatory; the farm had, by degrees, been raised absolutely above its value; in some years, that had not been very fruitful, my father had been obliged to sink some of his capital, and latterly, he had suffered himself to be drawn in by the Ambassador, to lend him such considerable sums of money, which were to have been paid by degrees, by deductions from the rent, but which at his earnest entreaties, were never deducted; that except this very uncertain demand all the
rest

rest of the property consisted in the stock, which also was not very considerable.

I found affairs much changed at the castle; the importunity of the uncourteous plebeian creditors of Mr. von Fuerstenruf, was become so great that he was sued for the interest, which had not been regularly paid, and repeated additions to the principal were announced to him; he endeavoured then, for a short time, to put some order into his affairs, but this was only a paliative, and the prospect of a judgment, assigning his property over to his creditors, to which, for some time past, both advocates and judges had looked with a longing eye, seemed inevitable. In this embarrassment, the Ambassador began now, but too late, to retrench his expences; half of the domestics were discharged, which half however, as is generally the case, consisted of those who had served him with the greatest fidelity and were no flatterers: the table was limited to fewer dishes, (still however too many according to the rules of proper moderation,) a crowd of parasitical good friends disappeared, and Mr. von Fuerstenruf became a philosopher. I found him, when I waited on him for the first time after my return, with a book in his hand, sitting in the summer-house with his lady,

dy, who was knitting him a cotton night-cap, and he gave me a very edifying sermon, on the emptiness of the pleasures of the world, and the happiness of a country life, just as the late Privy Counsellor used to do, when he was feeding his parrot.



CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

GUTMAN'S MARRIAGE. PICTURE OF HIS DOMESTIC LIFE.

WHEN I first entered on my new mode of life, it was not my intention immediately to marry; I had not met with any woman who had made any lively impression on me, and I was young enough to wait with patience, to see whether fortune would present such a being to my notice without any particular seeking on my part. My dear mother conducted the internal oeconomy of the house, with unabated activity and zeal, whilst I took care of the agricultural and external concerns; this occupation was really necessary to her; but, nevertheless, I saw often with sorrow, that the good old woman exerted her strength above her powers, that she was very much tired of an evening, and that frequently little unavoidable colds endangered her health. When, therefore, the country people in the village, our acquaintance in the neighbourhood,

bourhood, and even the Ambaffador, hinted that I ought now soon to think of marrying, I fometimes ferioufly reflected on the fubject : I perceived that a good wife, might very much contribute to heighten my domeftic enjoyments; that I fhould in that cafe be able to make my worthy mother comfortable in her old age, to take care of her, and by filial attention to repay a part of the debt, which her affectionate care of my early infancy, had impofed on me. The good woman alfo feemed to be pleafed, whenever any one talked to her of the pleafure of feeing me a husband and a father, and herfelf furrounded with grand-children. In the country alfo, people have a greater tafte for domeftic pleafures; they marry in order to fhare the burdens and comforts of life with a beloved companion; whilft people in towns tremble at a connection that encreafes their expences, and gives them a future profpect of innumerable cares, and the probability of a pair of horns.

As foon as it was perceived that I was half inclined to it, there was no want of propofals of the kind, from all fides, for I was confidered as a wealthy young man, and an induftrious farmer. The Ambaffador's lady was not the laft to make a merit with me, by finding me a wife.

D

She

She had a waiting woman, rather thin, but however well grown, for whom she would not have been unwilling to get a husband: she was, according to the Ambaffador's lady, of genteel parentage, as her father, who was in the first place, indeed, only purveyor of the fire in the knight's chamber at Stutgard, was afterwards promoted to be marshal-purveyor of the stables; * she could tell you the names of several things in French, could make lace, had read Richardson's Pamela, as also his Clarissa, and had already contributed much to the refining of the country people at Mehlbach, as she and the little Maitre d'Hotel had had the merit of teaching some of the cleverest of the young people, some English country dances, the same as they had been danced twelve years ago, at Stutgard. But having once told the Ambaffador's lady, that I had always felt, from my childhood, a natural aversion to ladies maids, and comb-brushers, I remained without any attack from that quarter.

• The Translator imagines that the simple meaning of these high sounding titles is, that he first of all provided wood for the fire in the chamber mentioned, and afterwards had the honor of providing hay, &c. for the stables. *Note of Transf.*

In

In the little town that was half a mile from us, there lived a grocer, who had three daughters, not absolutely disagreeable: this family sometimes visited us of a Sunday; the father used, on those occasions, to put on his best blue coat, lined with white, and to carry in his hand a China headed cane. As soon as they got out of the little town, he took off his peruke in order to save it, which was then put into a box, and carried by his youngest daughter. In this manner they continued their walk; the three beauties tucked up their robes, and when they arrived with their fat red cheeks, at the wood before you come to Mehlbach, a small pocket looking-glass was fastened to a tree, the peruke again brought forth, and every thing put in such order that they might make the best appearance. The second of these beauties, seemed particularly to set her cap at me; she made a display of all her talents, amongst other things she had learnt a little music, and as a spinnet, with Adam and Eve and the serpent and all that belongs to them painted on the cover, stood in our best parlour, she used to let herself be prevailed on to play a march on it, and afterwards to favour us with a little song, that began with these words:—

" Of all that's soothing to the mind,

" Nothing like friendship's joys I find. "

Even had this fair one been able to please me, still the business which her family carried on, would have prevented my thinking of her, as whenever they came to visit us, I could not for two days after get the smell of cloves and saffron out of the parlour.

My other female acquaintance, were equally unsuccessful. My marrying hour did not appear to be yet arrived ; and thus a whole year passed away.

In the following spring, my former worthy instructor, our clergyman, Mr. Westerberg, received a visit from his niece, a pretty young woman, but without fortune, who had lost her parents, and now found, in her uncle, a benefactor and a second father. She had been brought up in the country, but afterwards spent two years with some relations at Brunswick, who were people of virtuous and refined manners : there she appeared to have acquired as much polish, as is consistent with simplicity of manners and native ease ; this was what I sought, and as I afterwards perceived in her other good qualities besides, I spoke to my mother on the subject, and she perfectly approved my choice.

It

It is not, however, sufficient to make choice of a wife ; a man must know on what he is to live, with her and the children that may come. Now the reader has already heard what were my pecuniary circumstances ; I therefore considered it as my first duty, to place myself on a certain footing with the Ambassador. He stared, indeed, when he saw the number of notes of hand, he had given at different times ; I proposed to him to agree on certain terms, by which a part of the debt should be deducted regularly from the rent ; but his entreaties, the consideration of his present reduced situation, the friendship that united me to his son, the obligations I was under to the family, in whose house I had received the best part of my education, all this worked on me, and I was generous enough to content myself with a bond for the whole sum, and a promise of having the interest regularly paid : but on the other hand, I had my lease renewed for twelve years, without being raised ; and as I now thought I had provided for the future by these means, I presented myself to the worthy Mr. Westerberg, and asked his consent to marry his niece, of whose favourable disposition towards me, I had before had reason to be convinced, as my mother had made it her

business to enquire into that subject. The worthy old man gave his blessing to my proposal, (with tears in his eyes) and every thing was settled.

As soon as it was rumoured in the little circle of our acquaintance, that I was going to marry Mr. Westerberg's niece, every body wished me joy in the most friendly manner. It was a great satisfaction to me, to find that my choice was generally approved of, and that even those who had before formed designs on my insignificant person, had however the merit to do justice to my intended bride. I even remained on the same friendly footing with the grocer's family as before; they came to the entertainment I gave to my own and my intended bride's acquaintance, two days after our marriage had been agreed on. The second of the beauties, made her appearance in a lemon-coloured gown, with dark green ribbons, and danced with great spirit; and as I afterwards bought all the sugar, coffee, and things of that kind that I wanted, from the father, and even supplied myself sometimes through him, with a chance in the Brunswick lottery; we lived on very friendly terms with this family, who were in reality on the whole, very good people.

My

My domestic pleasures now began, and I can with truth say, that I enjoyed at this period, the happiness of a peaceful domestic life, in its fullest extent; my beloved wife, entered with spirit into the business of the family, and every thing seemed to prosper under her hands. I had plentiful harvests, and peace and union reigned under my roof. Every one had his stated business, and as my Amelia within three years, presented me, first with a daughter, and then with two sons, our house appeared very lively; my old mother carried about the children, watched and took care of them, derived her greatest enjoyment from the little things, and with her spectacles on her nose, knitted stockings and gloves for them. When in the summer, we had all borne the burden and heat of the day, our light supper in the evening tasted delicious to us: we used then, to have the table brought out before the door in the court, our friend Mr. Westerberg also often joined our company, and in that case, the jug that went round the circle, was filled with the best March beer, which was not to be used on every occasion. The Ambassador and his lady, now that they had been forsaken by their flatterers and table friends, began, in reality, to acquire a

taste for a simple life: sometimes they would stroll down to our house, arm in arm, about supper time, and invited themselves to a bowl of milk, and a sort of hard cake, that my wife was famous for making well: it ought to be added, that they brought with them a couple of bottles of old wine, which they carried themselves. Indeed, they appeared on those occasions, very amiable in their conduct, and I endeavoured to entertain them, in which I almost always succeeded, for I may venture to say, that in my youth, I was much inclined to innocent gaiety, and had the gift of enlivening conversation by that cheerful kind of wit and humour, which gives pain to no one.

The hay harvest, corn harvest, vintage, killing of cattle, all these things were feasts for us, for our servants, and our neighbours. Sometimes also there came Bohemian musicians, who having tuned their instruments before in the village, for fear of being turned away if they had been heard, stole secretly into our court and struck up a concert all at once before our door, with tabor, pipe and fiddles, which pleased very well our not over delicate ears: they must first, however, have made friends with the house dogs, who generally announced their arrival,
and

and not unfrequently joined their voices in concert with the instrumental performers.

In the winter, the long evenings were dedicated to domestic employments: the mother and daughter-in-law spun, and I brought out my books, studied, read useful works that Mr. Weiterberg procured for me, or settled my accounts.

We were not, however, quite without visits from strangers; among others, in the latter end of the year, a wine merchant used to travel the country, to take orders and to receive what was owed him. He was a sensible, lively, and liberal minded man; he generally took a bed at my house, and I then bespoke of him a pipe of light common wine, which lasted me the year through: he was fond of talking on politics, and we used to discuss this subject together over a glass of wine; the peace of Hubertsburg had, however, been made, without our being consulted, and there remained nothing more for us to do, but to point out afterwards, the ~~roles~~ ^{roles} which had been committed in the seven campaigns: he was on the side of the Austrians; I was for the king of Prussia; but, notwithstanding all that, we always differed without anger; for, God be praised, it was not then arrived at that pitch

pitch, that people hated, persecuted, and calumniated each other, on account of different private political opinions, and our governors, were rational enough, not to disturb themselves about our political dialogues.

There was little luxury in my house; we dressed simply, like the people in the country, and those of the middling class, and a number of unnecessary trifles, with which the people of the town load themselves, and fill their apartments, and their pockets, were quite unknown to us. If by chance a travelling pedlar came to our village, his box of Nuremberg wares was to us an object of great admiration; and if I made any unusual expence, by purchasing my wife a silk handkerchief, a work-basket, or any thing of that kind, there was greater and more hearty satisfaction in the house, than when a monarch presents his wife or his mistress, with some diamond ornament, that is to be paid for with the painful sweat of his plundered subjects: thus did we preserve the fortunate disposition of being pleased with trifles, and the advantage of being able to go without expensive superfluities!

I did not rent from the Ambassador the privileges of the chace, indeed, I never was a
great

great Nimrod. Nevertheless a bookseller from ***, who was fond of this exercise, sometimes visited me in the autumn; during his stay with me, the keeper of the forests used to take us out with him, and when we had run about from break of day till the dusk of evening, my wife used to regale us with a plate of dry fruit, which was seasoned by hunger, and sportsman's jests.

I went seldom to the capital, and only when business obliged me to go there; whenever this happened, my wife and my mother took great care to brush my best coat and hat very nicely, and to get ready some fine linen for me, and a warm neck handkerchief and so forth; and when I returned home, I brought with me all kinds of novelties, songs, and curious flower roots, and cakes, almonds, and raisins for the children.

These occupations and pleasures became more varied, as the little ones grew older. The lively girl, who had been christened Julia, after her grandmother, whom, according to the assurances of our neighbours, she resembled as much as one drop of water does another, ran a risk of being a little spoilt, for she was soon the favourite of us all. The eldest boy, for whom

the Ambassador himself stood godfather, and whom he had named Gottfried, was of a very mild disposition, quick of comprehension, reflective, and fond of scrawling on paper and on walls; the youngest was called Daniel, after our dear Mr. Westerberg. The women, who are always finding likenesses, affirmed that he was the exact image of myself; in other respects, he was a plump red-cheeked boy, who was fond of the open air, took delight in sowing and planting; with all that, had his heart always on his tongue, and of whom it might be predicted, that he would never occasion any great revolution in the world; I designed him in my own mind for agriculture, but I intended his brother for some learned profession.



CHAP. V.

DISTRESSING EVENTS. UNEXPECTED GOOD
FORTUNE.

TILL now, that is to say, till my nine and twentieth year, kind providence had not made me taste any bitter cup; the loss of my old father, which I was to expect in the order of things, was the only grief of any consequence that I had met with, and I can say with truth, that I knew the greater misfortunes of life only by books and verbal relation. That this could not always last I was persuaded, and even in the year 1770, I was reminded, that it would be presumptuous for me to consider myself as privileged, in preference to so many thousand good and better men, to enjoy pure undisturbed happiness in this world.

The blow which I received this year, was the sudden death of my friend Mr. Westerberg, who had been like a father to me. He had been sent for to a person who was dangerously ill; as
he

he sat by him, endeavouring to relieve his sufferings by friendly consolations, and to prepare him for his departure, he fell down dead by the bedside, just as he was pronouncing the words, "who knows how near I may be to my end." The sick person recovered after some time.

The separation from this worthy man, made a great gap in my domestic felicity. His place as a clergyman, was filled up by a little smooth spoken gentleman, who belonged to that class of talkative creatures, who collect the skum of all the sciences, chatter about every thing, decide on every subject; a species of men, that has increased so much of late, that if they were not continually fired at by the heavy artillery of sound criticism, these freebooters would soon, like Pharaoh's locusts, convert the most fruitful fields of literature into desert wastes. Mr. Pittman introduced into use in Mehlbach, fashionable words, that till then, had been seldom heard in our little village; he spoke without ceasing, of *inward feelings*, of *sympathy*, of *pleasurable sensations*, of *sensibility*, of *unfortunate passions*, of *intellectual enjoyments*, of *knowledge*, of *mankind*, of *the philosophy of life*, of *sweet enthusiasm*, of *sharp-sightedness*, of *ennobling*, *enlightening the country people*, and so forth;

forth; his sermons even were so full of this pretty little flowery language, and he knew how to deliver them in such soft accents, and so soft a voice, that the women, who in general attend more to the mode of delivery of a discourse, than to its contents, seldom left the church without having emptied their bag of tears; especially when added to that, he began to turn and roll about his little black eyes. He had brought with him Basedow's* *Clementary Work*, that had just made its appearance, and wanted to convert the village-school, into a philanthropical one, and to teach the poor chanter, even now in his old age, the new mode of instruction; he also made a proposal for instituting a feast of the rose, which, however, the Ambassador declined, for want of money.

I should

• Basedow, who was a Socinian, is considered by Professor Robison in his *Proofs of a Conspiracy, &c.* as having given the first impulse to innovation in Germany, and consequently, as being the first cause of the rise of that society of Illuminés, to which he supposes Baron Knigge to belong. If Baron Knigge, and the society above mentioned, are what Professor Robison represents them to be, is it not strange the Baron should speak of Basedow in the manner he does. *Note of Transf.*

I should, however, have let all that pass very easily, had he not interfered too much in my family. But he always came with his pockets full of almanacks of the muses, journals, and what was worse than all, novels, which he gave my wife to read, who liked very well, sometimes in the long winter evenings, particularly of a Sunday, to take up a book. The good woman, for my happiness and her own, had not acquired much learning! She knew a little of history and geography, wrote a good letter in an unaffected style, had read a selection of our old German poetical and prose writers, Gellert, Haller, Hagedorn, and Kabner, and some books of travels. But she was a stranger to a number of situations, torments, and joys in human life, the mad sport of stormy passions, and the wanderings of a heated imagination. Now she was by these writings, introduced into a new world, her curiosity fascinated, and her imagination set to work. I perceived, with displeasure, that she often dedicated hours to novel reading, that might have been better employed in household affairs; the poetic destiny of a tragedy hero, could excite her tears as strongly, as the actual misery of mankind that we see around us; every thing that was wonderful and unexpected, attracted

tracted her attention; while, on the other hand, what happened every day was too common for her; she no longer participated so heartily in our little domestic joys, and our honest neighbours and acquaintance, did not any longer appear sufficiently refined for her, just as if she had actually been accustomed to the society of the fine people, with whom she was only acquainted in her books.

At first, I attempted, by gentle raillery, to ward off the storm, that threatened with danger my domestic happiness, and made me fear every thing, for the education of my children; afterwards, I had a very serious conversation with Mr. Pittman on novel reading, and in general, on the choice of books suited to the particular situation of each reader, but I found that all the good I gained by this means, was simply this, that I was pitied, as a man without taste or feeling. As the Ambassador's lady also leaned a little to this side, and as the accomplished waiting woman, of whom I have already spoken, now joined the party, I was thinking of putting an end to this learned disorder, at least in my own house; in which plan, I was joined by Mr. von Fuerstenruf, (who though he was fond of playing the Mæcnas, and the patron of literature,

literature, fortunately did not like this kind of reading) when disagreeable events of a different kind, drew off my attention from this object.

The Ambassador had, for some months past, been in the habit of frequently taking little journeys from home, and had remained absent each time, a fortnight. When he returned the first time, he told me he had been to see his son, who was now Privy Counsellor and Gentleman of the Bed-Chamber, at ***, and whom he had not seen for some years; he brought me a friendly message from him, assured me he was very well, and that he still remembered me. I expressed my wish once again to see the noble youth, after so long a time, and thus ended our conversation on this subject. After his return, from each of the following journeys, Mr. von Fuerstenruf always appeared to me, to become more melancholy and thoughtful; however, as idle curiosity never was my failing, and as I never sought the confidence of any one, still less that of the great, and as he did not seem inclined of himself, to discover to me the cause of his grief, I gave myself no concern about it: however, the little Maitre d'Hotel whispered a few words to my

my wife, about money unfortunately lent, and approaching disagreeable changes.

About the beginning of the autumn of the same year, they began at the castle to pack up the best furniture, and to carry some loads of it to a little town in Saxony, where the Ambassador had one single house, which was part of the property of his lady. A little after this, they both went away, without taking leave of any one.

This extraordinary conduct did not long remain a riddle; the Ambassador, after different fruitless attempts, to raise a considerable sum of money, perceived, that in a few weeks his lands would be assigned over to his creditors, and in order to avoid the additional mortification he would be exposed to, if he were to be present at such an event, he took flight to ***. As the long train of events in my own life, will for some time prevent my speaking of him and his wife again, I will collect together, in a few words, all I should have to say of them in this book.—The Ambassador lived in a very confined manner, on the small annuity allowed him out of his property. He retained of his yet remaining servants, only those who were most necessary; associated with no one; fell sick from

the sorrow that gnawed at his heart, and because he was not philosopher enough to be contented without these things, which, however, are so little essential to true happiness; at the end of thirteen months he died, and Madame von Fuerstenruf found means to get herself appointed first lady in waiting at the court of the Prince of ***, where she also finished her life in the course of a few years.

Shortly after the Ambassador's departure, there appeared in the public papers, an advertisement for a meeting of all his creditors at the capital town of the principality. I had then but a bad presentiment respecting my demand, which was above five thousand dollars; however, I went and presented myself as well as the others, with my bond in my hand, but soon had the sorrow to find, that the greatest part of the other creditors would go before me in the classification, because older securities had been granted them. This, however, could still have been borne, if I could only have hoped to receive the interest of the money, the fruits of many years of my own and my father's labour, but holy law continued to give such a turn to the affair, that it came to a formal assignment, consequently the interest was stopped. Coun-
fellow

sellor Hamsterfeld, a complete knave, with a thin haggard countenance, the true image of chicane, was appointed agent, and received now full power to manage and dispose of the revenue of those noble manors, according to the forms of law indeed, just as he could answer it to his leathern conscience. For myself, unfortunate man as I was, I had the prospect, if every thing turned out for the best, of receiving the first sum towards the payment of my five thousand dollars, with the loss of the interest in fifty years, of which sum, a part even belonged to my brother, if he should ever make his appearance again.

This was hard, but my happy disposition, on which unpleasant events made but a transitory impression, soon tranquillized itself again. I had still the farm, which would maintain me and mine, if we were industrious and prudent, and no extraordinary misfortunes befel us. But this hope even disappeared. About Michaelmas, Justice Twanger, Secretary Goldfang, Counsellor Hamsterfeld, a Chancellor, a Beadie, and other assistant's-assistants, after they had taken a review of the other estates of Mr. von Fuerstenruf, came also to Mehlbach. Now therefore, the buildings, woods, fields and meadows,

dows were visited, registers made, inventories taken: a couple of hours in the morning were employed in this manner, the rest of the day was devoted to good eating and drinking. So it went on for four weeks; the gentlemen prescribed for themselves a luxurious regimen, and at their departure, they announced to me, that my lease from the Ambaffador for the farm, was not binding to his creditors, who were now in possession, and that as the whole of the property was already let together to another, I must quit Mehlbach next spring. In vain did I represent to them, that it would be more advantageous to offer the farm to the best bidder, and told them that if there was a time appointed for that purpose, I would bid handsomely;—I was not listened to.

I perceived indeed now, so much, that if I had thought proper to spend a rouleau of Louis d'ors, I might not only have remained in the farm, but have made an agreement with Mr. Hamsterfeld, by which neither of us would have grown poor: but having a heart that abhorred artful dealings, I preferred braving poverty, to enriching myself by deceit. These gentlemen too, all of them quickly perceived,
that

that I was a kind of man that did not suit their trade in the least.

All the useful property I now possessed in the world, consisted in the stock, which my father having paid for with hard money when he took the farm, must consequently be purchased again of me, by the next farmer. But even these remains of my property, were much lessened by this stock being extremely undervalued, because I had neglected to corrupt the sworn appraisers; and therefore that which was certainly worth more than six thousand dollars, was valued at $4123\frac{1}{2}$.

I will not deny, that the first two or three days, after these events, passed away in many melancholy reflections, and in anxiety for the future; but after I had considered my situation on all sides, I found myself less unhappy: only the thought that I should not perhaps be able to procure my good mother so much comfort and attendance as I could wish, made my heart sad. But I found this excellent old woman so composed, so serene, so full of reliance on God, and so ready to follow me to any place where providence might lead me, that she banished even the last shadow of sorrow from my soul.

It

It was not so with my wife, whom I was obliged to support with all the consolation I could collect together. I could not sometimes, on seeing this, refrain from speaking to her a little sharply. Thou, said I, who art always dreaming of wonderful unexpected events, thou oughtest, truly, to be more prepared than any of us, for so sudden a change of fortune ; or does only agreeable events come into thy plan of life? Of what use is all the fine knowledge and instruction with which thy books have enriched thee, if they have not even taught thee to bear with indifference such an insignificant change as this? Believe me, my love, I added with a smile to soften the harshness of my reproof, things must go much harder with us, before we can venture to compare ourselves to the Heroes and Heroines, whose histories thou hast been studying for some time past. All that has happened to us, as yet, would not furnish materials enough for the smallest romance. What is it that so much depresses thee? Poverty!—Oh! a person cannot be called poor, that possesses four thousand dollars! How many much better men than myself, must maintain themselves, and a numerous family, on the interest of such a capital? A little more, or a little less, does not make

make us happy or unhappy in this world. He only, who, in the literal sense of the word, is in want of the necessaries of life, and is not able to earn by his industry as much as is requisite to support existence, is poor. Are we not strong and healthy? Can I not, if it should come to the worst, earn something in any town, by the scientific knowledge I possess. But it is better to live in the country; I shall soon find means to get a smaller farm; and, with the blessing of God, we may get on as well in it, as afterwards to be able to raise our heads higher. Look at our lively children!—the girl will soon be old enough to raise a little portion for herself by her needle-work, which we will sell. The boys are strong; instead of sending them to universities, I will make clever mechanics of them. An honest and understanding mechanic, sound in mind and body, is well worth a hypochondriacal sickly scholar. These, and similar grounds of consolation, raised the spirits of my wife; and soon the usual serenity was re-established in our domestic circle. I did not, however, delay providing for the future; in the first place, I published an advertisement in different newspapers,

E

inviting

inviting my lost brother to appear, and divide with me the inheritance of our father: and then I wrote to all my friends and acquaintance, to beg them to look for a little farm somewhere, for me, proportioned to my capital.

One morning, (it was in October, 1770,) as I was sitting at my writing table, occupied with these affairs, I heard a noise without, that seemed to be occasioned by a burst of joy, from different people; and before I had time to open the door, the Grocer from ***, precipitated himself into the room, accompanied by my wife, and some of the servants, all full of noisy joy. "Do not be frightened, Mr. Gutman," stammered the honest man, "great joy and great grief, they say, sometimes kill on the spot:—I bring you an account—let me first take breath—I have been running like a madman—Mr. Gutman! you will be so surprised—who could have thought it." "Out with it at once," I now exclaimed, being at last out of patience, "I am prepared for all.—What intelligence do you bring me?—what is the matter?" "I bring money: indeed, I do not bring it yet, but you will receive it. You have won in the Lottery; by the chance, I was

was obliged to press you so much to take—
twenty thousand dollars :—what do you say
now ?” “What do I say now,” I replied,
whilst I laid down my pen very quietly,
“what do I say now ?”—but that the reader
shall know in the next chapter.



CHAP. VI.

GUTMAN TAKES A JOURNEY TO CHOOSE A
NEW DWELLING FOR HIMSELF. SEVERAL
ADVENTURES ON THE ROAD.

“**I** THANK God,” said I, “for the good fortune he has sent me so unexpectedly.— Never could this prize be more welcome to me than just now, when cares for the future maintenance of my family occupied my mind, and nothing presented itself to me but uncertain and troublesome prospects for futurity. But, I may venture to affirm, that one fourth part of this money, if I had gained it by my own industry, would have given me more pleasure, than this great sum, won by gambling, to which so many poor credulous people, who have been persuaded into it, may, perhaps, have contributed their last penny.” “But,” exclaimed my wife, with displeasure, “have we contrained, or persuaded these people to put into the Lottery? It was their own free choice.
—If

—If you had not got this prize, somebody else would.” “Take care, my love,” I replied, “to employ such arguments, only with precaution: in this manner, the most unallowable means of acquiring riches, might be justified. But we will not dispute about it, but receive, with gratitude, what providence has sent us. Only I tell thee this, and thou knowest I am not superstitious, be prepared to find, that this money will, perhaps, bring fresh misfortunes on our family, that it will not prosper: and then do not forget what I now say:—but, when that happens, thou wilt not certainly see me more depressed, than I was an hour ago.”

And now I expressed my gratitude to the good hearted grocer, for the friendly interest he took in my good fortune; and promised him a handsome present, which also he received. But my wife was determined to celebrate this day in a particular manner. Our friend was invited to dinner—a fat goose roasted—wine brought out of the cellar—and mirth and sportive humour enlivened the whole house. The same evening, our neighbours, and the people in the village, who had heard of the happy event, came to wish us joy. The clergyman, (Mr. Pittman), was not behind hand on this

occasion ; and profited of the good humour in which he saw me, to persuade me to subscribe to a collection of poems, which a friend of his had published, and which, I was determined, at least, not to read.

The question now arose, in what manner I should employ my money. Mr. Pittman declared, that if he was in my place, he would put it out to interest, on good security ; and then live comfortably on the interest of it, in a town, in the society of the muses, in idleness. The counsel was worthy him who gave it ; but I, who had always despised those idlers, who refuse their exertions to the world, during the best years of their life, and live on their income without rendering themselves useful to society, in any way, rejected this proposal. According to my own inclination, I would have bought a little estate, on which I would have exerted all the skill of a practical farmer, to raise the value of it ; but my wife was more inclined to rent a large farm. By that, she thought, there was something considerable to be gained. " It was certainly a duty to take care that, when we go out of the world, we leave our children in such a situation, that they may follow us in a respectable manner. And as God had now
given

given us a pretty fortune, it is not necessary that we should bury ourselves in a farm yard, in some miserable village, far from all good society." I shrugged up my shoulders, and was silent; fully determined to act according to circumstances and occasions, in such manner as I could answer it to my own understanding.

Among the friends to whom I had written, to beg them to look out for a little farm for me, was the honest bookseller, Mr. Freyman, of whom I have once already made mention. I had this very day received an answer. He said, in his letter, "I have not yet been able to hear of a farm, such as you wish. It is a pity you cannot employ a greater capital. In our country, whole manors are farmed by one person; but, for such undertakings, it is necessary to give a considerable security in money." As I was now in a situation to fulfil this last circumstance, this appeared to be agreeable to my wife's plan.

This being the case, I resolved to go there myself; and at the same time, receive the money for my prize at Brunswick. I therefore made every arrangement, in order that nothing

should be behind hand during my absence, and prepared for my departure.

Though I speak often of the little failings of my wife; of the attacks of her female vanity, and of the turn, she sometimes discovered, for romance and high life; the reader must not imagine, that disputes, on such subjects, long disturbed our union, or our domestic comfort; they rather served to enliven our conversation, and to prevent a tiresome uniformity in our life. We had mutually patience with each other's weaknesses; and on the whole, she was, and is, a very excellent woman.

Notwithstanding which, the difference of our manner of thinking, shewed itself, even in the preparations for my journey. She wished, for instance, that I should appear in some style, in the different towns I passed through. For this purpose, she considered it as necessary, that I should take a footman with me; and as we were not provided with this piece of household furniture, the choice fell on my gardener: a stout awkward fellow, who, with his rough head of hair, sometimes handed things to us at table, when we had company; but who, in other respects, had not the least appearance of a servant, from whom a person could derive any credit.

credit. Among the clothes of my late father, was a blue coat ; this was to be converted into a livery, by means of a red cape, that my wife was in hopes she could cut out of some of her stores, although the coat itself scarcely reached the gardener's knees. But I absolutely rejected this plan ; and except a new hat that I bought, and which, not to appear uncompliable, I suffered to be made in the fashion, according to a pattern provided by Mr. Pittman, I put myself to no further expence for my journey, which I performed in the post-coach.

I first took the direct road to Brunswick, where I arrived without meeting with any thing remarkable, just at a time when there is little stirring in this town, which is generally pretty quiet, except in fair time. My money affairs were soon settled. They paid me my prize without difficulty ; and as I am at no time fond of gaping at Castles and other things worth notice, as they are called—knew no one there—and could do nothing in this town respecting my principal business, I took a place in the post-coach, for *** ; where my friend the Bookseller expected me.

For this time, I had five other companions in my journey, whose society was very amu-

sing to me, in different ways. The person who sat next me, was an officer who had been recruiting at Nordhausen.—On the farthest seat was a wax candle-maker, from Augiburg, and an old French maiden lady. Behind us, a man had taken his place, whose sanctified air—a certain turn in his eye, that was very singular—and a mode of expression, such as I had not heard for a great while before, displeased me very much. The officer, who had already travelled some way with him, whispered me in the ear, that he was a Sectary and a Mystic; and that we should have much fun with him. In a short time, the whole company got acquainted; and the conversation grew animated. Towards evening, a genteel young man also got into the coach, at ***; who had an expression of melancholy in his countenance that interested me.

At every place, where the coach stopped, the officer, who was a little coarse in his manners, called for a glass of brandy; the old maiden lady drank coffee; the wax candle-maker took out a sausage, from which he cut a slice; the melancholy young man took nothing: and the Mystic took some drops from a phial, he carried

ried with him, on some sugar, and took out a book and read till the post-boy drove on.

No one was more talkative than the old French lady. She was incessantly taking from a little China snuff-box, some coarse black snuff. "*Tout ce qu'il vous plaire,*" said she, "*mais pour le caffè, et le tabac, je ne les quitterai pas pour tout au monde.*" She had been, as she told us, governess to the children of a Mairischal at Court; and was now going to enter upon another situation of that kind, at Riga. She was a great advocate for associating with people, "*comme il faut. Dis moi qui tu hantes,*" added she, "*et je te dirai qui tues.*" The officer wanted to make some sport at her expence, and among other things, to steal her fine showy slipper; but she kept him in order.—"*Mais si donc, Monsieur l'Officer,*" she exclaimed, "*ne faites pas l'enfant: I always say, jeu de mains, jeu de vilains.*" At last she took a pack of cards out of her pocket, and wanted to persuade her neighbour the wax candle-maker to play a game at picquet with her, in the carriage: which, however, he declined with politeness.

On the other hand, the wax candle-maker himself, got into an argument with the man of

war, on the best form of government. He had a great deal to say in praise of the Republican government, as established at Augsburg: and of the excellent regulations of the most noble, and most sapient magistrates of that place. "The devil take the wigs of the magistrates in the free towns," cried the officer, "there is no subordination—no decision—no steadiness—no justice among them. Give me a Monarchy, where every thing must be complied with in an instant; and where every thing is done according to rule." Much was said, and argued on both sides, on this subject, till at last I entered also into the conversation.

"I think," said I, "a person may live happy under any government. For that purpose, the form is of little consequence; and it is not always the person or persons, nominally invested with the government, who, in fact, govern. There may be found Republics, in which, one single ambitious and domineering member of the Senate, or whatever may be the name of the Council of the nation, exercises a more despotic power over the people, than any tyrant; and, on the other hand, unlimited Monarchies, in which no order can be issued in the name of the Sovereign, before it
has

has been resolved on in the council of certain families, or in secret clubs, or in the dressing rooms of certain ladies. In all ages, the most cunning, the most active, and the most clever man, has always exercised sovereignty over those who were weaker. There are also only two ways of guarding against the abuse of power: namely, fixed, unchangeable laws, to which all ranks, from the highest to the lowest, are obliged to submit; and the preserving of pure, simple manners; by which, the sense of true religion, sincerity and virtue, are not trampled under foot. If all ranks were impressed with these ideas, the thought of oppressing his fellow men, would never ripen into action, in any turbulent spirit; or, at least, he would find no means of putting it into execution. It is madness, however, to wish a sudden change of government. Such an event, which never can be brought about without violence, always occasions much misery and confusion; whilst the consequences are, frequently, nothing but a change of tyrants, by which means you often fall into worse hands than those, from whom you fancy you have released yourselves. And in this point of view, a Monarchial government, held under certain restraints, by
means

means of wise laws, is actually to be preferred to the Republican form, almost without exception. In the first, one individual bears the responsibility* and the honor; in the second, each person has few external motives to do good, by which he seldom gains any fame, but great secret temptation to do evil, sheltered by the name of the whole. The wisest have always governed;† under what shape, is a matter of much indifference. The wisest have, however, passions, as well as the weak, and often stronger ones. Explicit laws must prevent their doing mischief, and virtue and moderation secure the freedom of each individual; every other kind of freedom is chimerical. Whoever has few wants, and can by his cleverness and address, supply those wants with certainty; yes,—whoever is master of any trade that makes him necessary to others, is free under every government, and if he cannot succeed in one place, he finds again in another every thing in himself, for he carries his capital with him wherever he goes. Those state machines hang the best together, and last the longest, in which every individual

* Who is to call him to an account? *Note of Transf.*

† If so, how comes it that nations are often so ill-governed? *Note of Transf.*

individual is useful to the commonwealth, without being absolutely necessary to it. You," said I, addressing myself to the citizen of Augsb-
burg, "you are a man, who, by your trade, can gain a decent maintenance any where; suppose, however, the case, that you were the only maker of wax-candles in the world, and that every one must get their wax-candles from you; that would not be right, you would then be the Lord of the earth. But as soon as men began to perceive, that they could live without wax-candles, you would sink at once from your throne into the lowest rank; or else, in order to prevent the idea of your not being absolutely necessary, from becoming general, you would act with mildness towards those, whom you wished to keep dependant on you. In states where virtue, true religion, and morality prevail, there have never been complaints of tyranny; but where luxury and corruption have taken root, the dissolution of all sacred and social bands is inevitable, let the form of government be what it may. Therefore let us all be content with the lot that is fallen to each of us, and if the spirit of reformation should come on us, let us begin first with ourselves. Those chains are, indeed, the strongest, which we ourselves put on."

"You

“ You are perfectly right in that,” the Mystic added, with much sanctity of tone; “ it is our earthly part, which, as our instructor teaches us, chains the inward light, and has done so, ever since the world fell under the curse, and into the knowledge of death, by the fall of the first man. This is what prevents the true Archæus, the Spiritus Rector, the Veritable solar Monarch, from manifesting the Majesty of his eternal kingdom in us. The wise artificer can, however, after having obtained true knowledge himself, purify most perfectly the impure and hard heart, by the strong fire of nature, and awaken the promised new heaven, and new earth of righteousness and light. In like manner must we soften, melt, and destroy the darkness of our impure petrified hearts, with the strong fire of heavenly love, by sighs, prayers, and rivers of tears of blood, in order that our intellectual man, freed from the seven principal, and fruitful inclinations to wickedness.”

If the officer had been able to contain himself any longer, Mr. Pechflat (for that was the name of this Hermetic philosopher) would certainly not have made an end of his sermon so soon, which, to judge from the introduction, promised to be longer than mine, on the best form

form of government; but every one burst out in so loud a fit of laughter, that it entirely put the man out, in the thread of his discourse. As for myself, I restrained mine, and behaved as if I had been much edified by his wise discourse. This language was not quite unknown to me, for as long since, as when I studied at Jena, a set of impostors, who were secretly directed by still greater knaves, under the name of Rosicrucians, propagated this nonsense in books, in order, by this means, to draw in a number of weak, credulous people, and to turn them to their purpose. They had succeeded in getting on the blind side of the noble society of Free-Masons, which they endeavoured to lead just as they liked. And as they knew that this society, according to the assertions of those who have written its history, had laboured for 5500 years to acquire importance, influence, and empire, they found it very convenient to acquire those advantages by its means. Unluckily for them, they did not wholly succeed, and particularly of late years, the best and most clear-sighted, among the Free-Masons, have unmasked these hypocritical deceivers, and have at length constrained the apostles of darkness, to conceal themselves under another cloak. The political events,

events, which have so lately taken place, have indeed furnished them with the means; but I think, according to the present temper of the age, they will not succeed very well, even this way.

I was persuaded, that Mr. Pechflat was an emissary of this gang, and as I was willing to get an opportunity of observing more nearly, the ways and vagaries of such men, I watched for an occasion of speaking to the gentleman in question alone, and of inducing him to open himself more confidentially to me.

I found this opportunity at the inn, even where we stopped to dine. At this place, the Rosicrucian opened a bag, in which he carried his night clothes, some provision for the stomach, and some books. I approached him in a confidential manner, and begged permission to look into these books. "These are," said he, "the true writings of the instructor* ; and whoever searches therein, finds the right way, especially if he has the good fortune to meet with a sincere friend to assist him, and whose directions he follows." I opened a couple of them; one was entitled "*Chrismo Sacro-Sanc-*
tum,

* The original word signifies literally *road master*. *Note of Tran.*

tum, with the true Oil of Joy of the companions." The other was called " Hermetical Song of Praise on the superlative Pastoral Pleasures, with a Tractata on the Preparation of the Elementary Æquinoctial Balsam." " This Balsam," added Mr. Pechflat, by way of instruction, " has a wonderful effect against the attacks of spirits of the black kind, of whom you have probably read." As we were interrupted by the prophane officer, who now entered the room, my teacher ceased his instructions, enquired where I lived, and when I mentioned Mehlbach, he said significantly, " that a friend would come to me, one of these days, and satisfy my desire of instruction, to the utmost of my wishes."

CHAP. VII.

CONTINUATION OF THE FOREGOING. HISTORY OF A MAN IN DISTRESS, WHO IS ASSISTED.

THE post-coach always stopped for the night, at the village of ***, in order to wait for another, by which other passengers used to come, who wanted to travel further on the great road. As we stopped at the post-house, which was also an inn, our ears were greeted with the sound of music and dancing. "They are going on merrily here," said the warrior, "I should like very well to join the party with you, *Mademoiselle s'il vous plait*," turning to the old governess, who got out of the carriage just after him.

It was a cold, but fine evening, in the beginning of the month of December; we were all pretty well frozen, and therefore made haste to get into the warm room. This apartment, which was in common for all guests, we found now filled with the dancing party, which consisted

fitted of soldiers, peasants, servant-maids, and such people. Dust, and the smoke of tobacco, threatened to take away our breath; the croud was great, the room small; but as the apartment above, must first be prepared for us, the whole party of us pushed through the croud, till we came to a long table, which stood by the wall where the windows were, and at which a comical figure had already taken his place. This was a little thin man, with a thick red nose, and a mouth in the shape of a horse-shoe. On his head, on which were scattered a few grey hairs, he wore an old shabby hat of an enormous height, with a worn-out binding, that might formerly have been gold lace: the rest of his clothing consisted of a thread-bare blue coat, with stiff old-fashioned pocket holes, and metal buttons; a yellow waistcoat, and red small clothes. On his legs he wore boots with great turn-downs, and rusty iron spurs.

Hardly had we seated ourselves at the long table, when this man removed to the upper end of it, with the glass of wine that stood before him. His appearance, and his avoiding all society with us, led me to suspect that he might be the hangman of the place; but I afterwards perceived,

perceived, that it was not humility, but pride that influenced his conduct.

We looked at the dancing, and had something brought us for our supper. A couple of bottles of good wine, which I had with me, by degrees, put us all in good humour; and the merry officer took it into his head to persuade the Rosicrucian to ask the old governess to dance a minuet. This succeeded, as each of them imagined, that it was the other who was the object of ridicule; and, in fact, it was worth the trouble of persuading, to see a Theosophist dance, and place his legs in all kinds of hieroglyphical positions. The musicians were accustomed after every minuet, to play a jig as they called it, in which our couple exhibited themselves in a point of view doubly comical, as the lady would draw the stiff mystic, into all the *tours de bras* of an allemande Française, by which means, she every moment got into disagreements for room, with the hind quarters of the other dancers, who rolled on in their uniform circle.

Dancing and wine had put the animal spirits of Mr. Pechflat in motion; his inward light, or Spiritus Rector, disposed him to tenderness towards a dirty girl, who waited on us at table.

He

He affirmed, that the wise architect of the world had given her a heavenly countenance, and had cloathed her immortal soul in a most lovely earthly dress. The wax-candle maker had already remarked, that she was as straight as a *taper*; but the mystic, in order to prove that he was serious in his praise, went to kiss her; the girl, however, whose lover was probably present, gave him so smart a box on the ear, as silenced our wise man for the rest of the evening.

Tired at last with the noise, we longed for repose. The governess had persuaded the mistress of the house, to give up to her a great old couch in her own chamber; consequently there remained only, in our opinion, to provide lodgings for five. In the first story, there were three chambers with beds; two beds, in a room fronting the street, had a very good appearance; but the supposed hangman had crept up before us, and had already taken possession of this apartment. As he came to the inn before us, this appeared to be only just: although our warrior, who, according to his profession, did not trouble himself much about justice, would have liked very much to have dislodged him; but at last, the officer insisted, that as there
were

were two beds in the room, he would put himself in garrison here, to which the blue coated man, who was already half undressed, was obliged to consent.

I perceived very clearly, that there was no chance of procuring a comfortable night's rest here, by modesty: therefore, when they opened the adjoining chamber, in which was a dirty double bed, I declared, which was really the case, that I had always felt the greatest disgust, and a degree of horror, at the idea of stewing under the same clothes with any one. The Rosicrucian, and the wax candle-maker, were not so difficult; therefore, they took this for their resting place. In the third chamber, were two small tent beds, which the melancholy young man and I appropriated to ourselves.

Before I was quite ready to get into bed, the man, in whose apartment the officer slept, began to chaunt forth his spiritual evening hymn, in a loud roaring voice: he sung, and soon the Rosicrucian accompanied him, in a little whistling descant.

"My wretched soul set free,
From sin's most filthy weight:
Then 'till the grave I see,
The evil one I'll fight."

The

The officer, at first, thought this funny enough, and repeated each time the last syllable, like a village schoolmaster: but as his companion believed he really joined with him in his devotion, and continued to roar out more verses, one after another, the Lieutenant at last interrupted him with dreadful curses, and swore that he would strangle him, if he disturbed our repose any longer.

There was, however, but little chance of repose, at least, as far as concerned myself. The bed was so short, I could not extend or stretch myself out; therefore my legs were partly out of the bed. There was no want also of fleas: and we still continued to hear the noise of the music and dancing underneath. I had made them give me a watch light, as I generally do on journeys, particularly when I carry money with me; after I had, therefore, vainly tried every situation, and every position, in order to lay at ease, and enjoy some sleep, till it was now near two o'clock in the morning, I took a book out of my coat pocket, (for my clothes lay on a stool by my bedside) and read for about an hour.

In the mean time, I had remarked, that the young man in the other bed, had been as unsuccessful

cessful as myself in getting asleep : deep sighs that he heaved from time to time, gave me reason, however, to suspect that something more than mere external circumstances, had deprived him of rest ; I even fancied that I heard him weep bitterly ; and that he endeavoured to suppress his sobbings. This man had interested me from the beginning of our acquaintance ; his eyes were always fixed steadily on the ground, in a melancholy manner ; during the whole time he had travelled in our company, he had eaten very little ; and had taken no share in our conversation and merriment. I, therefore, determined to endeavour to induce him to open himself to me ; perhaps, thought I, it may be in my power to assist him, either by advice or action. When I went to bed, I had put in the straw of the paillasse, under me, the bag of money, that I had worn fastened to my body during the day ; and which contained great part of my prize in the lottery (the rest was in bank bills in my pocket book). “ If he should, perhaps, be in want only of some worthless gold,” said I to myself, as I felt under me with my hand, for my mammon, “ here will be found sufficient to assist the poor devil ; and then he will leave the room with another countenance

tenance from that with which he entered it."

"It appears to me, sir," I said to him, "as if you had not found more repose in your bed, than I in mine."

"Ah!" he replied, "I am accustomed to sleepless nights."

"That is a bad custom," I replied; "against which, however, I know a remedy, if you would have confidence enough in me, to explain yourself more fully. But for this night, there is not much sleep to be expected for either of us. What think you then, if we were to rise, have a fire, and to go to breakfast? the people of the house are certainly up, as the dancing has but just ceased, and the other coach is expected."

My companion consented to this proposal; and as we were sitting at our coffee, and had lighted a social pipe, I came nearer to the point, gave him to understand that I had remarked the uneasiness of his mind; and assured him, it was not ill-timed curiosity, but the desire of rendering him service, if possible, that induced me to beg him to disclose to me the cause of his grief. It required much trouble to prevail on him to do so; but, as I continued to press it in a friendly manner, and with address, he,

at length, related to me the following history :

“ My name is Flackard ; my father was a respectable manufacturer ; but as, through the competition of works of the same kind newly established in the neighbourhood, his sale and his profits became less ; and as he lost several large sums of money that were owed him, he fell back from the very splendid situation, in respect of fortune, in which he had been. However, after he had given up the manufactory, he still possessed a capital of 15000 dollars ; on the interest of which, as I was his only child, he would have been able to have lived in a confined, but decent manner. But the Duke of ***, whose hobby-horse, at that time, was manufactures and commerce ; which, in spite of the natural difficulties which arose from the situation and state of his Dukedom, he was still determined to make flourish there by force ; had it proposed to my father to undertake the direction of those affairs, which, for the above reasons, were going to ruin, with the title of Counsellor of the Chamber of Finance. This appointment was not to be despised ; and what was wanting to it in ready money, was supplied by flattering, but uncertain promises for the future. As my father
liked

liked to be actively employed, and hoped also that by entering into the Duke's service, he should open a path for me hereafter, he accepted the place; and the Duke was soon very much pleased with his exertions, by which, also, in fact, he rendered the country essential service.

"I had been designed for trade from my childhood, and had actually gained in a great commercial house, no inconsiderable share of knowledge in what is necessary to this profession; but the change in my father's situation, induced him to let me study at an university. There I spent my time not unprofitably; and when I returned from thence, there being as yet no place vacant, that was fit for me, the minister, Mr. von Klauenfeld, took me into his house as private Secretary, with the promise of providing for me in a very advantageous manner, in the Duke's service, in the course of a few years.

The Minister and favourite of the Duke was, at the bottom, a very ignorant man; but who understood the art of making himself of consequence at the right time—of turning to account the knowledge of those under him—and of appropriating to himself, their ideas and

their labour ; but woe to those who should suspect this secret ! It was also impossible to make any proposal to him, of which the idea had not before presented itself to him, as he pretended. As in the business of his Ministerial capacity, much occurred respecting manufactures and commerce, on which Mr. von Klauenfeld was to give his opinion in writing ; and as he soon perceived he could make me useful in this respect, I was to compose all his memorials, in which my father secretly lent me a helping hand, and which, I may venture to say, did the Minister no discredit. But we were discreet enough never to let it be known, how much we were concerned in the honour he reaped. I became, by these means, indispensibly necessary to my patron, and gained his confidence in so high a degree, that every one prophesied that I should soon obtain a considerable appointment. But for the very reason even that I was so necessary to him, he delayed my promotion, giving me, however, the most flattering promises of doing something for me hereafter.

“My wish for a certain provision became, in the mean time so much the stronger, as a virtuous passion for a deserving object, the daughter of one
of

of the keepers of the Archives, had taken possession of my heart; and her father, an honest and sensible man, had promised not to object to our union, whenever I should be in a situation to maintain her comfortably.

“ In the midst of these agreeable prospects, my father received a severe stroke. He had a friend of many years standing, a merchant at ***; and in whose honour and truth he placed an unbounded confidence. This man wrote to him, that he wanted to raise a considerable capital, on very advantageous terms, for an important and safe undertaking. My father made no scruple to trust him with his whole property, (those 15000 dollars, of which I have spoken, and which he had placed at low interest in the public bank of the Dukedom). But, hardly had the villain got the money into his hands, when he made a false bankruptcy, and cheated my father of all his money. The account of it had such an effect on the good old man, that it brought on a paralytic seizure, and he died in a few days.

“ My father's salary was so inconsiderable, that, as he was obliged to live at a considerable expence, and as the time I spent at the University had been expensive to him, he had not

been able to lay by **any** thing. So that I was now completely poor: and all my future fortune was in the hands of the Minister.

“ I also feared, lest this change in my situation, should induce the father of her I loved, to withdraw his promise: but he did not do so, and only encouraged me to be pressing in my solicitations to Mr. von Klauenfeld; at the same time, renewing his assurances to me, that as soon as I should have obtained an appointment, he would give me his daughter. But I soon remarked, that now the Minister saw I was entirely dependant upon him, he was in less haste than ever to give me any appointment in the service of the Duke.

“ Great as was the chagrin I felt at this unhandsome conduct, yet still greater disappointments were reserved for me. The son of Mr. von Klauenfeld, a vicious, contemptible court reptile, took it into his head to form designs on the lady to whom I was engaged; and as he was received by her as he deserved, he became my irreconcilable enemy. A scene that passed between us, at the masquerade, where he behaved with marked, and impertinent attention to the mistress of my heart; and I had been led by my warmth, to say things to him, that
had

had never been said to him before, increased his malice. In order to satisfy this, it came into his head to endeavour to inspire his father with mistrust of me, and to find out a man, who could at all events, supply my place.

“The Minister’s attention was directed to a young lawyer, who, in fact, possessed all these qualities which he required in a private Secretary. To rob me of the favour of my patron, it would be sufficient, to put it into his head that I had boasted that he could not do without me. I had lately drawn up a plan for the Minister, that would have procured him much honour, and an increase to his salary. The sketch of this plan, I preserved carefully in my chamber, and no one had ever seen it. Once, when on a leisure hour, I went to visit my promised bride, young **Klauefeld** found means to open my apartment, and my writing desk; he tossed over every thing, and at last met with the above mentioned plan, which he put into his pocket. He then went to his father, told him that I had boasted publicly, that I prepared every thing which the old gentleman gave out as his own; and, to prove the truth of this accusation, shewed him the copy of my
 F 5 plan.

plan, which, as he said, I had communicated to a person of my acquaintance.

“ On this, the Minister fell into the greatest rage, and without any explanation, without letting me come to justify myself, sent me my dismission, in a few lines, expressed very contemptuously. As I had not missed my plan, and could not in the least guess, how I had so suddenly incurred his displeasure ; (for I learnt the whole of the affair, for the first time, some weeks afterwards), I endeavoured every thing in my power, to obtain a hearing from him ; but I was not admitted. All hopes, now, of my future provision was gone ; and the fruit of my own, and my father’s faithful services, lost.

“ Disinterested as the father of my promised wife had shown himself till now, he thought, however, that he could not answer it to himself, to unite the fate of his daughter to mine, under my present circumstances. He therefore wrote me a very polite note, in which he declared, that he should still be ready to perform his word, if I could procure myself a provision within a year ; but that till then, he must request me to suspend my visits.

“ This

" This last stroke, nearly reduced me to despair ; I determined, however, to make every effort to open to myself other prospects. I had a sincere friend, in the Hessian service, who, though not rich, was in a situation of some importance at that Court, to whom I wrote to beg him to look out for a little appointment for me, in his country ; and in order, in the mean time, to escape from the observation of those who rejoice at the misfortunes of others, I went to the country house of another friend, there to wait his answer. My intended bride, notwithstanding she had been forbidden to correspond with me, found means to assure me of her unalterable affection, and to encourage me to endeavour to procure myself an appointment somewhere, even if it was a small one ; as she flattered herself with the hopes, that then her father, who, in fact, loved me, would put no obstacle in the way of our union.

" At last I received an answer from my friend at Hesse. He had procured me a place as treasurer, and nothing was necessary in order to enter upon it, but to get a friend to give security for me in 1000 dollars, and to give security myself for 500 dollars. " As to the first,"

said he in his letter, "leave that to me to settle; you will easily, yourself, provide for the second, for I alas! cannot.

"Generous as was the offer of my friend, it did not go far enough to be of service to me. Where was I to raise the 500 dollars? I was too proud, too fearful, too mistrustful, or whatever other feelings it was that prevented me, to mention it to the father of her I loved. At last I thought of a way that appeared to me, with certainty, to lead to my object. That is to say, I hoped to obtain this money from the Merchant who had cheated my father of all his property. I knew that he had not only laid by so much out of his bankruptcy, as enabled him to continue his business, just the same as before; but that he also lived now in luxury and abundance. What was more natural than to expect, that this rascal, in order to wipe out a part at least of the guilt of his conscience, would readily furnish this small sum, to save the son of him he had entirely ruined? But I was deceived; I am now returning back from this journey, and it appears like a dream to me, when I think in what an insolent and contemptuous manner this rascal, who wallows in the enjoyment of his theft, had the assurance
to

to dismiss me. I am, therefore, now without assistance, without prospect, and have lost the last shadow of hope."

"Five hundred dollars!" I exclaimed, "the trifling sum of 500 dollars! Is that all you want to make you happy? God be praised, I can provide for that! I now sprang from my seat, ran to my bed, brought out my bag of money, and counted out on the table to Flackard, who was speechless with astonishment, 120 shining Charles d'ors. "Here are also a hundred dollars more than the sum," I added, "which you will be very well able to employ in settling yourself. No hesitation," said I, "but put them up before any one comes. I can spare this money without any inconvenience to myself. Give me a little note of hand for it. Should you ever be in better circumstances, you may pay me at your convenience; if not, do not think about it."

It is impossible for me to paint to the reader, the transport of joy to which the poor man abandoned himself. Never in my life, have I repented less of having spent any sum of money, than this. Heaven had so unexpectedly sent me the prize! how just was it, therefore, that I should devote a small part of it to a benevolent

lent purpose! Yes, this idea consoled me, whenever I reproached myself for having acquired riches without labour or merit. I had no doubt of the sincerity and truth of Mr. Flackard; however, I consented, although I considered it as an unnecessary trouble, to look over the letters that he carried with him; and which all sufficiently confirmed the truth of his history. I took his note of hand for the money; begged him not to say any thing to the rest of the company of what had passed between us; and as during the night the other coach was arrived, I prepared myself for the continuation of my journey. Mr. Flackard, the officer, the Rosicrucian, and the wax-candle maker, were to continue their journey on the road to ***. As therefore of all my former companions, I only retained *la Vielle Demoiselle*, I had an inclination to see what other new passengers there was likely to be.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

FARTHER ADVENTURES ON THE JOURNEY.

ARRIVAL AT ***.

I FOUND my former companions, and the man in the blue coat, already sitting in a circle round an immense coffee pot, from which an ounce of coffee, or probably dried carrots, boiled in a quart of water, steamed, as I entered the room, which was in common for all that came. A man, who looked liked a foreigner, was walking backwards and forwards with the stateliness of a Spaniard, and every now and then took a pinch of snuff, with an air of importance. "*Bon jour, Scruteur serviteur,*" exclaimed a curious young advocate, who entered, arm in arm, with a merchant of nearly his own age; each of them with a pipe in his mouth. "Now gentlemen and ladies, with whom am I to have the honour of traveling,

ling, I hope you are all merry travellers. Always gay, whilst head and lungs are sound! that is my motto. *Ecce figura, Baphometi,*" said he in a half whisper to his companion, looking at the same time at the man in blue. "What the devil of a fellow is that?" As we none of us found ourselves inclined to relish buffoonery, at so early an hour in the morning, we contented ourselves with greeting the young lawyer with politeness: and as, in the mean time, the baggage was put into the post coach, and every thing ready, the company separated. It may easily be imagined what an affectionate leave the worthy Flackard took of me.

The middle bench in these sort of carriages is usually the most commodious, as it does not rest on the axle-tree, consequently jolts less; now as the old French lady and I were the only remaining ones of the former passengers in the carriage, we thought that we had a right to this bench, therefore got first in, and took possession of it. But the coachman came, just as I had seated myself, and whispered me, that "his lordship had bespoke this place." I looked all round the circle of those present, but could not discover one face that appeared to me to belong to a *lordship*. At last it came out, that

that there was no other person meant by this designation, than the man in the blue coat, or the supposed executioner. He was, in fact, a country nobleman of the neighbourhood, who came here, the day before on foot, to go by the post-coach to the capital, where the faithful States of the country were called together by their Prince, to consult on new imposts for the support of the opera, the prince's hunt, and other necessary expences. I did not feel much inclined to give up a commodious seat, to accommodate this pillar of the state, at the expence of my ribs; and my neighbour was still less inclined to it than myself. The matter was therefore contested a little; but, however, as all the rest of the company was on my side, the Member of the State was obliged, but not without murmuring and grumbling, to take his place on the hindmost bench. "I know not what the man thinks of himself," said the person, who had before paced the room in so stately a manner: "I have the honor to be Privy Counsellor, Counsellor of Justice, Counsellor of the Court, and Member of the upper Chamber of Finance. But here, in the public coach, no rank makes any difference;—here we are all equal."

I must confess, that my present fellow travellers, in spite of their originality, did not entertain

entertain me very much by their conversation, in which, the self-conceited advocate, almost always took the lead. He was what is called, *un mauvais plaisant*, and his jokes favoured very strongly of the coarse manners of the University. He made his lordship the butt of his wit; but as this man, not only was so insipid, that, in fact, he was not worth the trouble of laughing at, but also did not appear as if he could be induced to hold any regular conversation; the young lawyer turned to the subject of literature, and the fine arts, on which his friend the merchant, likewise gave his opinion. Both now began to criticize our latest poetical and prose writers, in spite of the literary Journal of Frankfort; then music, of which both were amateurs, came on the tapis. They praised much Kellner's Sonatas for the harpsichord; and passed from thence to the dramatic art, with which the merchant seemed to be well acquainted; for, among other things, he anatomized the acting of a Mr. Burgopzomer, with whom he had lately got acquainted in a journey to Austria and Bohemia.

The word Vienna, set our ducal Privy Counsellor on his hobby horse. He pretended to have certain accounts, that the Emperor was in a very bad state of health, and he asserted, that
it

it had lately been talked of, at the court of the Duke, as a matter that excited apprehension ; “ he is not dead yet,” the nobleman roared out in a horrible provincial dialect, “ he cannot be yet dead, or else the inn-keeper at the merryman, where I always put up when I go to town, would certainly have written to me. He sends me word when any high potentate dies, that I may put on the court mourning, as belongs to the nobility.”

With similar conversation the hour of dinner arrived, for which purpose we stopped at a little town. The inn-keeper at this place, who waited on us himself, endeavoured to make up for what his dinner wanted in quantity and flavour, by an unceasing chatter; and as he was in his way, as great a wit as our companion the advocate, the poor country nobleman was obliged to suffer much from the jokes of both of them. But he shortly obtained some allies; for as we were sitting at table, two persons of his acquaintance came on horseback to the house, and dismounted. The foremost, whose appearance had much resemblance to the figure of the knight of the rueful countenance, was also one of the faithful members of the states of the country, who were going to meet at the capital ;
and

and from his exterior, appeared, if not richer in ancestors, that is to say in inward merit, than our companion in blue; at least, in somewhat better outward circumstances. His green coat, which was, indeed, a little worn, was ornamented with gold button-holes, and over that, he wore a grey cloak, with arm-holes and capes. His noble head was covered, instead of a helmet, with an old black velvet cap, accompanied with a mask or shade, round which was a border that he had drawn so close about his face, and by that means so well defended it against the cold, that nothing but a couple of red eyes, and a respectable nose, made their appearance. He rode an old brown horse, well accustomed to subordination; and after him limped, like a three legged stool, a skinny white horse, bestrode by his trusty 'squire, who was equipped with a pair of jack boots, and who, when at home, filled several noble offices.

Hardly did our companion in blue perceive through the window, the nobleman who approached, than he went to meet him. And now they began to make a great deal of ceremony on entering the room. "I entreat you cousin, enter without ceremony." "No, the devil take me if I do." "Shut the door, gentlemen," said

said the advocate, "it is cold here," And on this both the noblemen entered together.

But now our reign was at an end; the tongue of the nobleman in blue was loosed, and both the gentlemen bewildered themselves in a diffuse conversation on family, and national affairs; during which, they forgot every thing but to eat, and in which we could so much the less put in a word, as the dialogue was carried on with much warmth, and the nobleman who came last, was a little deaf.

At length we continued our journey; the nobleman in green followed us with his cavalry. It surprised me, that when every one took out his purse to pay his bill, the two noblemen made an exception; but the merry innkeeper explained this circumstance to me, by saying, that their Lordship's were never provided with ready money on their journey to the capital, but paid on their return with the money for which they had sold their votes at the Diet. When we were only two miles from the capital, where we arrived before it was dark, the man in blue, ashamed to make his entree in the stage coach, got out, took a knife from his pocket, with which he cut a little twig from the hedge, which he converted
into

into a kind of riding switch, took his pocket handkerchief, and with it covered his boots with dust; and then walked into the gates and through the town, with as much stateliness as if he had just dismounted his horse.

My friend the bookseller, Mr. Freyman, to whom I immediately went, absolutely insisted on my taking up my quarters in his house; which I also thankfully agreed to. He, and his good and amiable wife, received me with the heartiest friendship; and took the warmest interest in the fortunate change in my pecuniary circumstances. "This being the case," said Freyman, "you can now take a large tract of ground, three miles from here, which is to be let in eight days; comprehending, an extensive range, with buildings for different purposes, and a chace! Lord, such a chace as there is not in the whole country! You will there, often have a troublesome guest in me." He gave me now a preliminary account of all that I had to do, to be perfectly informed of the value of this land; and it was decided, that the following day, even, I should wait on the necessary persons. He added, "those who rent such extensive tracts of land, which like these, are held under the government, take the title of Amsfrath*.

Amtsrath.* I think that will not be disagreeable to you; and occasions only a trifling addition to the first expence." "Well, so, let it be," said I, "it is pretty indifferent to me how I am called."

The evening was spent in agreeable conversation, till my fatigue reminded me of my preceding sleepless night. However, I did not lie down in the comfortable bed, that the hand of hospitality had prepared for me, till I had, by a few lines, given my wife an account of my being safely arrived. I could not refrain from tickling her female vanity, and her inclination for a town life, by writing to her, that she would ere long have the title of Amtsrathinor,† and live near the capital. After this letter was finished, I ascended, with difficulty, the elevated resting place; which was piled up with six feather beds, and which closed round me like the waves of the sea, and I slept sweetly till the morning.

* In Germany, those who farmed extensive lands under the Prince, frequently receive this title and rank as an officer under government. *Note of Transl.*

† The wife of an Amtsrath is so called.

CHAP. IX.

NEW FARM. RETURN TO MEHLBACH.

THE Prince, in whose capital I was now pursuing my affairs, displeased with the person who had been at the head of the department of finance till now, because he did not raise him sufficient money, took into his service a man, who was to place his financial affairs on the Prussian footing. The person who had been recommended to him for this purpose, had but little practical knowledge in this line, (he had been first a candidate in Theology, then tutor in the family of a Minister, and finally Secretary to the Chamber of Domains;) but, on the other hand, he possessed the gift of displaying all the knowledge he had collected from books, and especially from the writings of Mr. von Justi, little as it might be of general use, which he laid down as an irrevocable law. He was now director of the chamber of finance, and turned every thing upside down in the country,

as it was quite sufficient for him, to change any thing, that had been established by his predecessor; and to oppress an honest man that the former Minister had favoured. He was, besides, generally considered as a designing, mean fellow; he had been dismissed the Prussian service for want of subordination. Now as he who cannot obey, seldom knows how to command, the new Director of Finance was an unsupportable, despotic, and brutal minister. However, he often disgraced himself by the most contemptible flattery, towards those persons he was in want of; and as he had once heard, that a real great man can never let himself down, however condescending he may be towards very low people, he now would play the finished Courtier and Statesman, addressed himself often to men who had not been accustomed to it, in a comic-courteous language, full of submission and humility. When a person wanted any thing of him that he was not inclined to grant, he invited him to his luxurious dinners, loaded him with kindness, but did not give him an opportunity of speaking to him: and when he said to any one who wanted his assistance, as he passed by him, "we will eat a friendly dinner together soon:" that person might also,

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certainly

certainly depend on it, that he had nothing to hope for in the main. ↓

It was this man, under whose direction every thing was now farmed; and to him, I was therefore now particularly to address myself. His character might have frightened me, as I never liked to have any thing to do with *Charlatans*; but I did not require any favour or benefit from him, but simply that which I could every where procure for my money. I had also reason to expect the best reception, because he particularly favoured and forwarded the farmers-general of land, as the work of his own creation.

When I waited on the Director of the Chamber of Finance early in the morning, I was immediately admitted. I found a little, thick, puffy figure, resembling a frog that had been fatted up as a delicacy for a fast day: his gait was like the rolling of a boat too heavily laden, going against the wind: and when he spoke, his short arms were in constant motion. He spoke only as if he was delivering an oration, with divisions and subdivisions, on the encouragement of agriculture—on the improvement of the breed of cattle—on trade and manufactures; all which things, let it be said,
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in passing, generally succeed best, where the government troubles itself the least about them, and only leaves to every Citizen the free exercise of his intellectual, physical, and æconomical strength, undisturbed and undirected. It was a pity that the discourse of the Director was already perfectly known to me; for, as he repeated the same to every one, the whole town knew it exactly; and my friend the bookseller, before I went out of the house, had intimated to me the manner in which the little squat man was accustomed to declaim. After having heard the oration, I then entered on the subject matter. My proposal to undertake the farming of Wallerthall, either when offered to the best bidder, or by private contract, was very graciously received, as I declared that I was in no want of the money necessary to purchase the whole of the stock, however large. I was referred to the proper office, to see the valuation that had been made of this farm; and to be informed of the other circumstances relating to it. At last, the fat little gentleman added, "that it was not at all the intention of the government to raise the lands of the Prince above reason, but only according to their value, as given in the proposals: whoever, therefore,

would agree to the sum therein mentioned, and could also give the necessary security, would immediately be put in possession of the lands, with the title that accompanied them."

Now I was not ignorant, that the valuations of land, made at the writing desks of the learned gentlemen of the law, are much like the plans of military operations, composed in the closet. Therefore, after I had looked over and examined every thing on paper, I reserved to myself the privilege of acquiring more exact information on the spot, and at the place itself, before I said any thing farther; and I declared my intention of going to see Wallerthall the very next day. In answer to which, the Director of Finance exclaimed, "after your return, we will then eat a friendly dinner together!"

On the following day, Mr. Freyman accompanied me to Wallerthall. We remained there five days, which, without discovering to any one the certain object of my stay there, I employed in seeing every thing with my own eyes, and in gaining information respecting those things that cannot be examined into in the winter, by conversation with the country people, in the place itself and its vicinity. On the whole,

whole, I returned to town satisfied with the account I had received, as also with the situation, and determined to undertake the concern.

I was given to understand, that if I did not regard a few dozen of Louis, I might perhaps, have some abatement in the rent; but Gutman was never accustomed to underhand dealings. On the other hand, I accepted the friendly dinner of the little fat man, to which also Mr. Freyman was invited; and after the lease had been signed, and I had my patent as Amtfrath in my pocket, I considered it as allowable, for the first time, to make a present to the Director of Finance, which also he did not refuse.

In reality, I had ventured on a great undertaking: my whole property was only just sufficient to give the security required, by purchasing the stock, and the annual rent was very considerable; however, there were great advantages to be expected, if I had luck; and those who venture nothing, also gain nothing.

It was customary that the new Amtfrath should be presented to the Prince at Court, and assure him of his humble gratitude, for not having disdained his money. The little fat man had introduced this custom also, thinking by that to do honour to himself, and his newly

established corps; and by this honour to entice the more people to enter into it. As for myself, I am not very ambitious of such marks of distinction; and it was not at all suitable to my inclination to expose my rustic figure to the ridicule of the Courtiers. Observing, however, that my declining it would be attributed to awkwardness, and *mauvaise honte*, I thought it best to consent, dressed myself quite in form, according to my fashion, and enjoyed the privilege of going to the Castle with the Director of Finance; and also of being instructed by him in our way there, systematically, on the forms I must observe. Among other things, he advised me not to produce the white gloves, I had bought expressly for the purpose, being accustomed to wear them on all ceremonious occasions, such as burials, marriages, and so forth. "My highly honoured Marechal de la Cour," said the Director of Finance, as we entered the Anti-Chamber, "I here take the liberty of introducing to you our new Amtfrath, my friend, Mr. —." Here he stopped, for he could not immediately recollect the name of the man, whom he was presenting as his friend; I helped him out; the Marechal de la Cour smiled, and was enchanted to be introduced

roduced to my acquaintance. By degrees all the persons belonging to the Court were assembled; and at last the Prince made his appearance. I was presented to him, and he was so gracious as to say to me, that it was cold weather, and to ask me if I had never before been at ***; to which, however, he did not wait for my answer, but passed on to the dining room.

I was placed at the Marechal's table, to which also were invited some of the noblemen who were come to the capital to attend the Diet: who made rather a comical figure, and did not leave the court nobility time to amuse themselves at my expence. The good people were not accustomed to dine so quick as is usual at Court; some of them were not well provided with teeth, yet were willing to taste of every dish on the table. If, however, they rose hungry, at least they quenched their thirst. A couple of young officers took care of that; and wine was served to them so plentifully, that they walked away from the table with rather unsteady steps. As for myself, I may venture to say, that at least, I did not make myself ridiculous: nay more, it appeared to me sometimes as if I adapted myself better to the

manners of the Court, than my fat protector. Among other things, I had twice an opportunity of showing that I even understood the French language. The only thing that embarrassed me, was, that I found it inconvenient to sit at table with a sword by my side. I had hired such an implement from a sword-cutler, but it was rather long; and as I did not know very well how to manage it, the attendants at court were always getting it under their feet. I also lost my new hat, cocked after Mr. Pittman's pattern. The servant to whom I had confided it, changed it; and I received in its place a wretched old *chapeau de bras*, which some courtier had squeezed and tumbled about for many years, venting on it his spleen and ennui. This is the history of my short life at Court; perhaps, many an old gentleman of the bed-chamber, has not many more interesting events to relate from his. Happy, however, is he to whom it costs only the loss of a new hat! I did not, however, neglect giving my wife an immediate account of the honour that had been done me on this occasion.

Eight days more elapsed, before I had perfectly settled my affairs: and these eight days I spent very agreeably, in the society of the
good

good friend, at whose house I was ; and in that of his friends and relations. We conversed on literary and other subjects; amongst other things, I related to Mr. Freyman my conversation with the Rosicrucian, Mr. Pechlat, and expressed to him my astonishment that there should be men who could write such senseless stuff, as the writings of this society contains : or Booksellers who would publish it. " These people," Mr. Freyman replied, " know and understand very well what they write, and why they write so and not otherwise. In the present times, they consider mysticism as the most convenient mask for their secret operations : at another period, they will very well know how quickly to change their language. But whenever storms shall appear in the political sky, which they understand the art of secretly raising, I fear we shall then perceive what part these gentry and their emissaries will play in it; how they will throw oil on the fire, in order to raise the confusion to the highest pitch, and will endeavour to make themselves necessary. And then, the better kind of people, those who are zealous for truth and justice, should be on their guard ! But how can you be surprised that the writings of this society find publishers ?

Was a Bookseller only to publish such works as speak the language of sound reason, he would soon become a bankrupt. And what good would it do if he was to hesitate? What he would not undertake the printing of, another seizes, from whom he must purchase with his money those wretched productions, if his town's people require such fashionable wares from him. Does he not do better to take the profit of them himself? He can, at least, when the fair comes, exchange this miserable trash, fit only for waste paper, for better productions.

I could make no reply to this, and only remarked, that it was a very melancholy consideration, that a person with the best intentions, can, in no situation in this world, do as much good, and follow his principles as strictly as he wishes.

At the end of the week I took leave of my good friend, hired a carriage, and returned the direct road to Mehlbach.

CHAP. X.

FESTIVE RECEPTION AT HOME. DEPARTURE
FROM MEHLBACH, AND ENTRANCE ON
THE NEW FARM.

AS my birth day happened in this month, I had, at my wife's desire, so contrived it, that I might return exactly on that day to Mehlbach. She and my excellent mother, used on this occasion to make some cakes, and prepare something of an entertainment; and the good old woman used then to relate the circumstances that took place at my birth, and how my father rejoiced, and what he said when he first took the boy in his arms. In this manner she recalled her younger days: and I used to press her hand and thank her for the patient tenderness, and affectionate care, with which she had watched, nursed, and attended me, in this first and dangerous period of my life. Such a birth day, celebrated on the place itself, by

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simple country people, who have retained a relish for family feasts, and domestic joys, is surely well worth a *bal paré* in the town.

I would not, therefore, deprive myself this time of such an enjoyment. According to my calculation (and I had also written word of the same), I should arrive towards evening; but, by means of a hard frost, the roads were hardened, the horses travelled fast, and I found myself already at Mehlbach a little after noon. There was nobody at the windows, when I arrived, so I entered the court without being seen by any one. At the door, I was met by a laughable masquerade figure, in whom I could with difficulty, recognize my gardener Stephen, of whom I have once already made honourable mention. I at that time related that my wife had not been able to induce me to transform him into a livery servant; this unfortunate metamorphose had now taken place during my absence. Probably it was imagined, that now I was an Amtsrath, I should myself feel that I could not consistently with my situation, do without a footman. Poor Stephen, was not only disguised by a stiff head of hair, plentifully beplastered with meal, &c. which appeared as if it was nailed to the hinder part of his

his skull, and by a dress that had but indifferently the appearance of a livery ; but he had also been taught a true German mode of welcome ; but which, on account of my early arrival, he did not perfectly well recollect : and instead of which also, he made use of that which had been designed for the visitors that had been invited.

Soon after this, the women made their appearance : but my wife was only half dressed. Her head was arranged in the *costume* of an Amtsrathinor ; and whilst an immense cap, ornamented with a variety of ribbons, such as I had never seen her wear before, at every motion of her head whisked in my face ; the rest of the figure of this new Syren was still clad in the rustic family dress, in which I liked so much to see her.

My children at first did not appear ; they were fetched, however, at my desire ; but, as it seemed they also were interrupted in their dressing, and little Julia was very absent, and was constantly muttering something to herself, in a low tone of voice, that she had probably learnt, and would not forget before the time came for delivering it.

Disagreeable as were these follies to me, I appeared not to observe them ; employed myself

self in some occupation about the farm ; and gave my family leisure to prepare for the entertainment, which I plainly perceived they were making for me. In passing by, I had a glimpse through the window of our clergyman, Mr. Pittman, very busy, in what was called my parlour. He had taken off his coat, and was standing on a ladder, in his waistcoat, hammering something.

The guests now arrived by degrees ; the principal people in the village, the grocer's family from ***, and others ; and when, at last, every thing was in order, I was requested by my new livery servant to honour the company with my gracious presence.

On my entering the house, such a band of music struck up, as, if I had had weak nerves, would certainly have thrown me into convulsions. My wife, full dressed, conducted me in ; the musicians played before us, and in this manner I entered the parlour, which, by means of a great sheet, was divided in two, and at the same time, transformed by these means into a Theatre. The most noble audience sat just in front of the linen partition, and the men and maid servants belonging to the farm, took their places behind. The music began under
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the direction of the village chanter. Then Mr. Pittman, who united in himself the offices of dramatic poet, prompter, scene-shifter, manager, and candle-snuffer, drew up the sheet, and the play commenced.

It was a pastoral, which my children under the names of Menalcas, Chloe, and Damætas, represented, and was designed to celebrate the return and birth day of an old shepherd, (under which character I was understood). My youngest son, Daniel, was twice at a loss; otherwise every thing went off very well. The dear little things were covered with coloured ribbons, as gay as harvest crowns, and instead of sheep crooks, they held in their hands, alas! the fine painted sticks, to which I used to tie up my best carnations. Even my house dog had a part to act, was led by Chloe by a pink ribbon, but broke loose and sprung away; *as it is the nature of all creatures to behave unruly, when, after being accustomed to be chained, they find themselves all at once confined only by a silken cord.*

After every thing was finished, the dear children were praised and careffed by the guests, as the rules of politeness demanded; and absurd as the whole appeared to me, and little, as
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so foolish an entertainment agreed with my sentiments, I could not bear to lessen my wife's satisfaction, but thanked her affectionately for this proof of her love. I even returned my thanks to the dramatic composer, (although I secretly wished him fifty stripes *ad posteriora*, as well for his cursed poetry, as for the whole invention and disposition, which all originated in him). But I said nothing flattering to the children.

A supper, at which also there did not prevail so much nature, simplicity, and heartiness, as formerly, when we used to celebrate such birth day feasts among ourselves, closed the entertainment, and I was glad when the guests took their leave.

"I have perceived my dear," said my wife to me, as soon as we were alone together, "that you were not quite pleased with the little arrangements I had made for the celebration of this day; forgive me, best of men, if I have not hit your taste. At least I meant it well."

These last words almost made me forget the sermon, I was in the intention of giving her; when we were *tête à tête*; but the good woman who, in fact, did not like I should go to sleep in displeasure, pressed me to declare what it was that

that particularly dissatisfied me; (he knew very well, that when once I had relieved my mind by speaking, every thing was forgotten and forgiven). I therefore began in the following manner :

“Thou knowest, my love,” I said, “that every entertainment, which has a phantastic appearance, and requires much preparation, is highly disagreeable to me. Can any thing be more delightful than the innocent overflowing of the hearts of beings, who have preserved their native simplicity : who know and love each other, and which displays itself in ostentatious joy, and thankfulness, towards the good Creator ? Or, what is the use, on such occasions, of pastorals learnt by wrote, party-coloured clothes, and the presence of people who are strangers to our feelings on such occasions ? Let us leave it to the great folks of the world, to yawn more on their days of festivity, than in all the rest of the year ; and to the inhabitants of Courts, to curse their birth days, in gala dresses and hoop petticoats ; and to have the expressions of affected joy warbled to them by painted figures !—the poor creatures have blunted every better feeling. But we, the true children of nature !—no, such things are not

not suited to us. However, I will let it pass, when such artificial pleasures are carried to any degree of perfection ; at least, in that case, the less refined feelings are gratified. But Mr. Pittman's performance, and the Mehlbach orchestra, and the whole apparatus ! Can any thing be more disgusting to sound sense and reason than all this ? added to which, I am not for training up children to theatrical performance."

"But, by this means, they acquire a proper assurance."—

"Confound such assurance, as enables a person to act without blushing and hesitation, what we are not. The only enviable assurance arises from an inward sense of an upright mind, and a pure conscience. With that we can look every one in the face, with modesty, but also with firmness. Should even our outward appearance be a little awkward, and our words not always so elegantly arranged, still a person succeeds best on the long run, by these means. And now we are upon this chapter, my dear wife, let me earnestly entreat thee, to concur with me in preserving simplicity of manners, even in our new situation ! We have been loved and respected here by our neighbours,
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and by strangers, by high and low, although we were nothing but simple country people. Should we be more so, or would our hearts beat with more pleasure, if thy head were loaded with a quantity of lappets and ribbons; if the long train of thy gown were to sweep up all the sticks and straws in the yard: or, if the broad bull face of the clumsy Stephen, were to look over our chairs at dinner?—Certainly not. But, by these means, we should expose ourselves to the sneers of the great, and the envy of the little. And, if fortune should one day deprive us of the contemptible trifle, which we call riches, (thou knowest that I do not depend much on the blessing that will attend the money got in the Lottery); how will it be, when the train must be again cut off?—when fat Stephen must again lay aside his party coloured trappings? What a triumph for ill natured people!”

I continued a little longer in this strain, and had the pleasure to remark that my exhortations were attentively listened to, and profitably received. Women have this quality, that they easily comprehend similar rational and moral ideas, and are able to feel the importance of them; and if they discovered as much steady resolution in putting such rules in practice, when the opportunity

portunity offers, as they do readiness in giving them their approbation, many a man of firm principles would find less difficulty than he does at present, in fulfilling his duties at the head of a family.

The spring of the year 1771 came, and with it the period when I was to quit the estate of Mehlbach. The Administrator, Mr. Hamsterfield, now made his appearance again, with the Commissioners of the new farmer; they feasted, they did a little business; however, the gentlemen finished their business, according to their mode of reckoning, very quickly, as I threw no difficulties in their way, and every thing was prepared beforehand.

It was not without painful sensations, that I at last, quitted with my family, the place where I first saw the light of the day; where I had passed the careless, happy years of my youth, and had enjoyed many heart felt pleasures, in all the happiest of human connections. I know not whether it was a latent pre-sentiment; but in that I have not much faith, that I should not prosper at Wallerthall; suffice it to say, that I departed with a heavy heart. The clergyman, Mr. Pittman, did not belie himself at our departure; for as we got into the carriage, he put
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into my hand a most affecting poem, which began thus :—

“ They go, the gen’rous, the belov’d, the good ;

“ Oh, luckle’s day ! far, far, from us they go ;

“ Our hearts go with them, and a briny flood

“ Of tears, regretful, down our faces flow.”

The flood of tears, was not, however, in truth, so great as to lay the country under water ; I nevertheless saw, on this occasion, the eye of many an honest peasant, to whom I had given advice or assistance, become dim, as he pressed my hand on bidding me farewell ; and a little crowd of the poor, with whom we had sometimes divided our morsel, surrounded the carriage and called on God to bless us.

I have nothing to relate respecting our journey ; we arrived without accident or adventure, at Wallerthall, and found the waggon with our household goods, which we had sent on before us, already there.

CHAP. XI.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR NEW SITUATION AT
WALLERTHALL. CHARACTERS.

MY wife opened her eyes very wide, as soon as she first perceived the large and handsome building that we were now to inhabit. Truly it had altogether a much more grand and wealthy appearance than our manorial farm at Mehlbach. Here also were to be seen, long gardens with cut hedges, and planted with yew trees cut into the form of pyramids, and many fine box trees; almost all which fine things had been planted by my immediate predecessor, the last tenant. The extensive buildings of the farm had a respectable appearance: and as for the country round Wallerthall, it may be considered, in fact, as one of the most beautiful parts of the principality. Wallerthall itself was only a village, but a very large one; and several families lived in it, whom I must here describe,

describe, in order to give my readers an idea of what degree of social-pleasure awaited myself and my family, in our new place of residence.

Besides myself, who was farmer-general of the taxes, as well as of the land, (for I was also to collect a part of the taxes, which were farmed to me on an average of twelve years). Besides myself, I say, there was in Wallerthall, another officer under government, namely the Justiciary Amtmann, Mr. Schlott, a hard hearted, malevolent man, who in other respects neither wanted understanding, acuteness, knowledge of the world, wit, or solid and uncommon acquirements in different branches of science. But not one benevolent feeling ever arose in his heart towards any living creature. He was an old bachelor, despised women altogether: and did not indeed speak well of any one. On the other hand, he took delight in scandalous anecdotes, and in quarrels, and misunderstandings, between good men. He never endeavoured by any accommodation, to put an end to any law-suit that came before him, he rather protracted them, not so much from interested motives, but because he was delighted to see people disagree. He exacted the rents of the
poor

poor peasants with unmerciful severity ; and I might so far also be certain, that if I had recourse to him, he would assist me in recovering such arrears without ceremony. His appearance was forbidding, and the expression of his countenance malicious and sneering. Children always fled from his approach ; indeed he took pleasure in teasing them, and used to frighten them, and take away their play things ; nay, he could not even let a dog pass by him without giving it a blow with his stick. At cards, of which he was not very fond, although he played remarkably well, he quarrelled without ceasing. He never made a promise in unequivocal decisive language, in order to keep open a door, by which, perhaps, he might be enabled to play a person a malicious trick. Now, with this person, I could not desire much intercourse, excepting in what related to our offices, and on matters of business, which brought us together. My head, might have gained by his society, as for my heart he did not suit it.

His old, one eyed sister, who kept house for him, was so forbidding a creature, that I believe it was owing to her appearance, that of all the
gardens

gardens in the place, that of Mr. Schlott was the least plundered by the sparrows.

Our parson, Mr. Gebhard, had been for many years schoolmaster in the capital, but, tired at last of so truly disagreeable a life, he obtained, after repeated applications, this village rectory. But it was not at all in his line to tend such sheep of the coarsest wool as are the peasants. His sermons were not at all suited to the people in the country; they were learned, philosophical, abstract, or hyperorthodox, dry dissertations, which he delivered in the most formal didactic tone. He fulfilled as little the duties of his office, as a friend and counsellor in domestic life, for the peasants did not at all understand his learned language. In other respects, he was sincere and friendly, but cold. If he loved money a little, he might easily be excused for it; the poor man had maintained himself and family for twenty years, by hard labour, and with much trouble; now, at last, he had got into something of a better situation, and therefore he was willing to lay by a little money against he should want it. In spite of his erudition, (for in what concerned philology, particularly the Oriental languages, he might vie with many a famous professor,) he was nevertheless insup-

portable in society. His hypochondriacal disposition, his ignorance of the manners of the world: his unconformability and pedantry, made his conversation very tiresome. He liked to dispute, or rather to preside in disputes. Besides, the tone of his conversation took frequently a very catechetical form, for he never finished his sentences entirely, but kept back the last word, so that the person conversing with him was always obliged to add it, like a scholar that wanted prompting, on which he repeated it;—for instance:—

“ This affair can only have a”——he stops.
The other,—“ Melancholy end.”

He,—“ True! a melancholy end.”

He also took much pains always to pronounce every word distinctly, and without abbreviations. He never said, “ trumpets and drums,” but “ trumpets and kettle drums, or regimental drums;” never “ dollars,” but “ Imperial dollars;” never “ stick,” but “ walking stick.”

There was not much to be said about his wife; she generally wore, on Sundays, a gown of green stuff damask, and in what represented her hair, (but which was composed of black horse

horse hair where it appeared under her cap,) she wore some silver flowers.

The only son of this couple, a great stout candidate in theology, who lived in the capital as a private tutor, came now and then to Wallerthall. I have never seen, in all my life, any human being with broader feet, a lower forehead, a greater appetite, and less sound judgment, than this same young candidate in theology.

Our Æsculapius was a Dr. Aufguss, who would have greatly contributed to the splendor of Wallerthall, if the fruitless attempt, which he made a little before my arrival, to open there an excellent mineral spring, had been successful. The water had, when he discovered it, a very strong smell; he thought that it contained, in particular, much sulphur. From his account, the matter was more particularly examined into; but it was discovered, that near the source of it there had formerly been a large house. The stream run through the ruins of the temple of Cloacina, belonging to this building, where it acquired the mephetick smell that had attracted the attention of our physician. Dr. Aufguss did not recommend himself much by his externals; his figure, with his dirty dress, had rather something almost disgusting; a person

soon began to feel pains in his bowels when he looked at his rhubarb physiognomy. The case, in which all his science was enclosed, was covered with a wire wig, to which hung a little lackered bag. Such wigs, (let it be said by the way) although they have the advantage of duration and incombustibility, consequently do not want to be insured, must, nevertheless, be very dangerous, since, as it is said, they attract the lightening. For the peasants he had only two medicines, which he himself prepared; and which he always kept on a shelf, that he could reach from the place where he usually sat. One of these medicines was a grey powder, which served for all disorders, that had their seat in the lower regions of the body; the other was a red mixture, which was used for all complaints that attacked the upper parts, as the head, the breast, &c. With his great patients, on the contrary, he employed various medicines in all kinds of forms, enquired also particularly after every little circumstance. Then, also, for greater clearness, he had double expressions in readiness; as for instance: "how do you do?—how do you find yourself?—have you slept and rested well?—how goes on the transpiration and the perspiration?—well! the disorder will soon abate
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and decrease.—I must depart, and take my leave." When I came to Wallerthall, the doctor was still an old bachelor; two years afterwards, he married an apothecary's widow at a little neighbouring town, and went there to live.

We had also a famous surgeon in the village, Mr. Bueller, who had formerly been surgeon to a regiment. He was fond of talking in company of his former life, of campaigns, the effect of artillery, and the number of deserters; and when once he had folded his arms across his prominent stomach, which was ornamented with a blue Manchester waistcoat, and began to describe the amputations he had performed, every one present became uneasy and dispirited. If the good man were to be obliged at the last day, to put together again in their places, all the limbs he had sawed off in this life, he would have a very hard job of work. This man was a widower.

I have nothing to say respecting the family of the forrester; they were people without education; he had formerly been whipper-in to a nobleman; she was the daughter of a peasant.

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I now come to the two principal houses in Wallerthall, namely, to the two noblemen's families, who also lived there. The one belonged to the noble family of Buttenberg, the other to that of the Baron von Kaller.

Mr. von Buttenberg only spent a couple of months in the winter, at the capital. He was a gentleman of the bed-chamber at the Court of an Elector, where, however, he seldom went. The greatest part of his life he passed at Wallerthall; lived very expensively, which his fortune permitted him to do, visited the whole neighbourhood; often received visits from the town, and generally took a journey to some bathing place once a year. He was full twenty years older than I; consequently when I got acquainted with him, about fifty years of age. He belonged to that class of men, of whom nothing particularly good or bad can be said. Extremely polite and well bred, as a courtier ought to be, prudent and obliging in conversation, ready to show civilities to every one, and charitable to the poor; but at the same time without genius, soul, or character, and equally pleased with all those who were not publicly marked with infamy. He could live with all kinds of people, and did live with all kinds of people,
and

and showed all kinds of people the same attention in the same circumstances. He never spoke otherwise than well of the absent, and designated more than a thousand persons, by the expression of "my old friend such a one;" nothing but friends! He was not, however, false; and never forsook these old friends, till they were in such a situation, that it would no longer have been creditable to associate with them, and that he would have been forced to have been ashamed of them; for credit and exteriors were every thing to him, as may be supposed. Of princes, and every thing done or occasioned by princes, he spoke without distinction, with the most profound respect; and no one of them, was he even the most insignificant of mortals, ever travelled near Wallerhall, without Mr. von Buttenberg's going to meet him, to pay his respects to him, and to invite him to a collation, or a dinner. He had no solid information, which is generally the case, with such people; but he had heard and read, a great deal, and therefore his conversation was supportable, as he was, indeed; always on his guard, not to discover his deficiency. Here and there, also, he would introduce a little anecdote; but a person must not expect from him, original

fallies, true wit, or acute observation. He was, in other respects, kind to his servants and peasantry, and a very good-humoured nobleman.

Madame von Buttenberg also, who was much younger than her husband, made a bad use of this good humour, to the great concern of all sensible people. For this false, haughty, vain, self-conceited woman, followed only her caprice and humour; frequently slandered, ridiculed, and insulted people, who were certainly better than her, and was the means of preventing their ever setting their feet in the house; for a person might rest assured, that he would either be made the but of her wit, or criticised after his departure. I had been very sufficiently instructed, and warned on the subject by my friend Freyman, who knew these people; for which reason, I advised my wife to keep at a great distance with Madame von Buttenberg; it will be seen, by and by, how far she profited of my advice.

Mr. von Buttenberg had three children by his wife; a son, who, according to his expression, died the death of an hero in the last war, (that is to say, the young man had been shot as he stood in the ranks as an ensign;) a daughter, two years older than our Julia; and another son who

who was younger than the daughter, a mischievous spoiled child, for whose education, a private tutor was at that time kept, but who was treated like a servant, consequently was not respected by his pupil, and which, also, in reality, he did not deserve to be.

The other nobleman's house, was the residence of the Baron Kaller; a man, whose character possessed unauſtentatious worth, and who discovered firmness and respectability in all his actions. He had inherited his property on the extinction of another branch of the family, till which, he had lived on a very small fortune; was in the military service, and had behaved in many campaigns, as a brave, intelligent, and at the same time, very humane officer. A heartfelt affection, rational reflection, which confirmed his choice, and at the same time, gratitude to a family, not noble, that had given him proofs of true friendship in his less splendid situation, induced him, as soon as he had inherited his fortune and resigned his commission, to marry an excellent young woman of this family, at which, truly, the noble persons who were related to him, were very much displeased; and all the other noble families in the neighbourhood, also, exclaimed loudly at the disgrace of

such a mis-alliance. But this virtuous man, let them talk; he had an excellent wife, with whom he passed many happy and enviable years in patriarchal simplicity; and soon these pure joys were increased, by a number of beautiful healthy children, to whose education, the respectable pair dedicated their whole attention. And as he possessed very great literary acquirements, and might have vied with many who are called learned men, there was, also, nothing neglected in the cultivation of their understandings. Never have I seen any family that has interested me in so high a degree as this: the most perfect pattern of domestic management was here to be seen; here prevailed the greatest harmony of principles, of inclinations, and of sentiments; and even when there was any difference of opinion, which was however rarely the case, still there was union in action and conduct, conformable to the plan of the head of the family. Nothing was concealed from the husband by the wife, out of ill-judged favor to any member of the family; and the fine example of punctuality and order, with which she conducted her affairs, which appeared to give her no trouble, because she took every thing at the right time, and at the right end,
had

had a beneficial effect on the whole house, in which only one spirit prevailed, and every one, without being reminded, contributed individually; and all united to the harmony of the whole. The children were little angels, innocent, rosy-cheeked, lively, natural, frank, obliging in their manners to every one, and at the same time, modest, well-behaved and gentle.

What would I not have given to have got into greater habits of intimacy with this family! But the Baron had determined not to associate with the inhabitants of Wallerthal; and, in truth, the persons I have described, were not calculated to encourage him to a greater intimacy with them. He feared also, that by mixing more with them and their families, and a greater intercourse between their servants, the order and regularity of his house might, by degrees, be deranged, and much useful time lost. He, therefore, remained with them on the footing of occasional visits of ceremony, kept up a little more society with some neighbouring noblemen and officers under government; had the relations of his wife for months together at his house, and sometimes, also, made little excursions with his family to visit them. My vanity sometimes told me, that I merited to have had an exception

made in my favour; but the Baron had, probably, been so often deceived, that he did not choose any more to make any particular acquaintance; in order to avoid the pain of finding himself again mistaken, and the embarrassment of being obliged to draw back, which is so much the more disagreeable, when people live together in a small place. I honour the man who remains true to his principles; and, therefore, after some fruitless attempts, ceased to seek the intimacy of the only man, whose society, in my present situation, could have contributed to the sweets of my life.

All these good people, who lived in Wallerthall, and others who lived in neighbouring places, associated more or less together: the men, also, had formed a club; for which purpose, two great rooms in the inn were set apart, in which they met together once a week, from all the neighbourhood. This association was, in fact, commendable, and I took part in it with pleasure. But every Sunday, when the weather was tolerable, my wife and I visited some of our neighbours in the village or its vicinity: those people returned the civility some other Sunday; and thus passed away several months, till the winter came, before we had completed

pleated the circle of our neighbourhood, and got acquainted with all the people, with whom we were in future to associate.



CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS. UNPLEASANT
PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE. DETERMINA-
TION OF THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.

IT is not so easy to undertake all at once the management of a great business in a country where you are a stranger. I was aware of that, and prepared to pay for experience, during the first year. It was, however, necessary that the strictest attention should be paid during this first year, in order that at the end of it, at least, we might know perfectly well what we were about. My wife and I had both of us enough to do, and yet she had taken a housekeeper, and I a hind to assist us. During this period, therefore, little was thought about amusement; still, however, I often had occasion to renew my exhortations to pursue a simple manner of life. The neighbouring civil officers lived like the princes; it was their business to consider by what means,

means, allowable, or not allowable, they could provide for this expence; I, who was not rich, knew that I could not do the same, without being a knave; but, that my wife would not always comprehend. Sometimes, she wanted me to convert one of the teams of cart-horses into coach-horses, and to dress an awkward plough-boy as an English jockey: at other times, if a couple of men, who had been with me on business, staid dinner, my wife prepared to send to table an innumerable number of dishes, and I was obliged, if I knew of it time enough, to give a positive order to prevent their being brought to table, which often appeared to her very hard, especially when they were all ready.

But the more I got acquainted with my present situation, the more clearly appeared to me the necessity of limiting my expences, and not raising my stile of living too high. I saw, for instance, clearly, that in this concern, sooner or later, instead of getting forwards, I must fall to the ground. The farm itself, the meadow ground, the brewery, and so forth, were indeed all let to me at a rent which a person could afford to pay, by making use of better husbandry; and with tolerable favourable seasons; but
the

the taxes, some part of which, as I have already mentioned, I farmed one year with another, but which were to be accounted for separately, did not come in as they ought. The peasants were exhausted and impoverished by the imposts of all kinds, drawn from them for so many years; and the few who had still any thing left to pay, were obstinate, and had been accustomed to consider the tax-gatherers as blood-suckers and enemies. Nothing was to be got from them by fair means; and as they perceived at once, that my heart revolted at the thoughts of employing force, none of them paid. In truth, it would only have cost me an application to the Justiciary Amtman, Mr. Schlott; he would, with the most joyful readiness, have got me, every time, the money by distress, from all the debtors; in that case, where there was no money, beds or other household furniture would have been found: or, if the debt was too considerable, the little cot and yard would have been judicially sold. But, O God! it was impossible for me to employ such means; I suffered, what ought to have come into my purse, to waste away, and added money of my own when the treasury was to be paid, which never shewed any indulgence to its debtors. I supported

supported willingly, the ridicule of Mr. Schlott, and rejoiced that I had occasioned no one a sleepless night. But the number of insolvents increased by my forbearance, and the loss which I suffered by it yearly, was very considerable. I was now obliged, in order to pay my rent regularly, to take up small sums of money, for which I paid interest. And I might be certain, that with this management, even if I met with no misfortunes, at the end of my twelve years lease, my debts would be so increased, that I should be obliged to employ the whole of the twenty thousand dollars, that I had given as security, to clear myself.

I cannot say that this prospect depressed my spirits: I have already informed my readers that I did not expect any blessing from the money gained in the Lottery. But it was necessary frankly to discover to my wife the state of my circumstances. I did so. But women do not like to look into the future, provided only the present moment smiles; and my wife thought that even one year particularly fruitful, or some prosperous agricultural scheme, would be able to set us up again. As I perceived that she disregarded the matter, I spoke no more to her

her

her about it, but formed my own plans in silence.

The first thing of all was to determine what I was to do with my three children. They were still young enough to prepare them for any kind of life. The most important thing was, not to give them too high an education, and not to cultivate their talents in such a manner as to give them a relish for all kind of refined enjoyments, and a number of intellectual wants, which in an industrious life, filled up with common mechanical occupations, as is the case where a person is obliged to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, cannot be satisfied.

The girl ought to be brought up as an active, and industrious housewife, that in case even she should find no man who would offer her his hand, she might, at least, be able to get her bread as housekeeper in some great farm. I determined that neither of my sons should be scholars. A man destined for a learned profession, who has nothing else to live on, after having passed the time allotted at the University, leads a life of anxiety till, if the law is his line, he obtains a moderate income as Counselor, or by some little appointment. It is the same

same with the Physician; and I was strongly prejudiced against letting my sons study Theology, to have them afterwards lead a life of torment and fatigue as private tutors. A merchant without a capital remains always a retail dealer. Every one knows what is to be gained by the profession of a Soldier, or in the civil line. I therefore determined, that the youngest, as had always been my intention, should early be brought up to agriculture; and as the eldest had as yet shewn no inclination that way, he was to learn a trade. It is certain that a clever mechanic, is more truly free and more independent of men and of fortune than any other man; and is always sure of the means of support with moderation. When what he makes belongs to the necessary wants of life, his industry is welcome in all places, and sure of its price. Should he meet with misfortunes as a master-workman in one town, he can leave it with his bundle, and find immediately work and maintenance in another town.* The
business

* Every citizen of the State ought by rights to make himself master of some trade, in order to be able to look forward without uneasiness. We have seen in our day, how, by unexpected revolutions in the affairs of men, those
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Business of a Cabinet-maker appeared to me particularly respectable, profitable, and agreeable. It also affords room for the exercise of imagination, taste and genius; and when once a person is arrived so far as to carry on the business on a large scale, he is in the way to become a rich man, and live well and genteelly. I therefore determined, that my son should be a Cabinet-maker, whatever people might say about it. This idea, which however I had determined not to communicate to my wife, till it was time to put it in execution, pleased and tranquillized me so much that I could hardly wait for the time when the boy should be old enough to begin his apprenticeship.

A good education, however, is useful to every one, whatever may be his destination; I therefore took care that my children should not be neglected in that respect. Freyman, who

who have fancied themselves the most securely seated in the lap of fortune, have been suddenly precipitated into the extreme of misery. Arts and Sciences will not defend against want, but a trade maintains a man. How happy would many an emigrated Marquis consider himself, if he possessed such means of subsistence!

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who knew my principles, procured me a clever, modest young man, who had just finished his studies at Gottingen, who undertook the private instruction of my children, and who soon acquired my esteem and confidence.



CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

HUMBLING OF FEMALE VANITY. TWO CHILDREN QUIT THE PATERNAL HOUSE. DEATH OF A FRIEND.

YEAR after year passed away, and in spite of all my admonitions, and my own determination, I could not prevent our departing by degrees from the virtuous simplicity of our patriarchal manners of life, and our beginning to live rather expensively. My colleagues, the neighbouring civil officers, sometimes invited us to an entertainment, they would not always be refused: and that brought with it the necessity of inviting these people in return. Though we did not give such extravagant entertainments as they did, still it was necessary that the table should be so provided that these men, accustomed to luxury, and to ~~be~~ only for their stomachs, might not repent their having taken the trouble of coming. The man who
lives

lives as a citizen of the world, can raise himself above many things; he can do without the society of those who do not like his mode of living:—but he who stands in civil relations, must, in many respects, regulate himself according to the manners of the class to which he belongs. In the summer, the gentlemen of the Board of Finance, as well as the Director himself, are accustomed to consider the houses of the farmers-general of land under the government, as their country houses: and sometimes honor one, and sometimes another with their visits, and then amuse themselves for weeks together with hunting, fishing, and good living. Wallerthall was too pleasantly situated for them not to indulge me with this honour. It is a matter of importance to keep well with men, who, if they do you no good, will still be flattered to prevent their doing you harm, and making your life uncomfortable; I therefore did not dare, in any way, to decline such visits.

Whoever is so situated, as to be obliged often to give great entertainments, cannot avoid making such arrangements in his house and in his establishment of servants, that every thing may appear consistent. This was also the case with me;

me ; and before I had time to reflect more minutely about it, I had, in the course of a few years, got into a mode of living exactly the reverse of what I had purposed doing. Such is the fate of our principles. The increased luxury in my house was not only extremely disagreeable to me on account of the expence, but also, because, added to the loss of time it occasioned, it, at the same time, accustomed my children to the sight of apparent wealth, to dissipation, and to the conveniences and luxuries of life : things, with which I should have been glad to have seen them totally unacquainted, as they had now nothing to expect, but a life of trouble, exertion, and privation.

As for the inhabitants of Wallerthall itself, I succeeded pretty well in the beginning in keeping them at a distance ; but my wife wished sometimes for female society ; I could not blame her for that ; and as I gave up an evening, at least, every week to the club, it would have been hard to have denied her the privilege of procuring herself also the means of chatting an hour away. But among the females of the place, as the family of the Baron Kaller would have nothing to say to us, there was only M. von Buttenberg to whom she could turn her eyes.

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This doubled-tongued woman also, when she was troubled with ennui, and had no company that suited her, knew how to shew so much attention to my wife, that she soon imagined that she was in particular favour with her. In vain did I declaim against too great an intimacy with people of higher rank—in vain did I tell her, how seldom people, of what is called the great world, are formed for friendship;—it was preaching to deaf ears. Sometimes, indeed, scenes took place that might have opened the eyes of the good woman: among other instances, M. von Buttenberg received an unexpected visit from two noble ladies in the neighbourhood, one day, when my worthy old mother, and my wife, had been invited to take a dish of coffee; they then began to talk French without interruption, which the women of my family did not in the least understand; and suffered them to sit in silence for three whole hours, without taking the slightest notice of their presence. Another time, M. von Buttenberg invited my wife to spend the afternoon with her, but half an hour afterwards informed her, that a circumstance had happened that unavoidably put it out of her power to receive her visit; and yet this circumstance, that so unavoidably put

it out of her power to see my wife, was nothing more, than that, in the mean time, the lady of the Privy Counsellor, von Berg, was come, with whom she thought she could pass her time better than with the plebian wife of the Amtsrath.

Such humiliations created a momentary sensation; but it only cost the noble lady a friendly nod of the head at church, or some such thing, and then the impression was entirely effaced. A more decisive scene was necessary to cure my wife of the inclination to intimacies with the great;—and this soon happened.

The Countess von Neffelbach, whose husband was Ambassador at the Court of our Prince, came once in the summer, to spend some time with Madame von Buttenberg at Wallerthall. These two ladies had been friends in their youth, and were very similar to each other in disposition. Two days after the arrival of the Countess, their two waiting women took it into their heads, to invite themselves to spend the afternoon with my wife. It may easily be imagined, that, extremely displeased at such a freedom, she immediately declined seeing them; and then, to show that she was accustomed to associate on a footing of equality with the mistresses

treffes of such Abigails, my wife purposed making Madame von Buttenberg a friendly morning visit without ceremony, the next day. She went—entered without being announced—passed a couple of anti-chambers—and came at last to the half open door of the dressing room, in which the two ladies were talking, and laughing very loud at the same time. She was just on the point of going in, when she heard her name mentioned. It was quite in character with female curiosity, that she should stand and listen a little. “Well, to-morrow, my dear Countess,” said Madame von Buttenberg, “we will have the fun of inviting the Amtsrath’s wife here: but you must not laugh; a true original, I assure you, and full of pretensions. Nothing is more ridiculous than such a Plebeian, who will act the lady.” The noble lady was going on in the same strain, but my wife did not feel any inclination to listen any longer to the fine things that were said of her. She flew back, and entered the house in a rage, where she complained to me of her misfortune, with a flood of tears.

Although she might have spared herself this humiliation, had she followed my advice sooner, yet I could not now make her such a reproach;

on the contrary, I sympathized with her in her grief. It was, indeed, base in Madame von Buttenberg, to speak so contemptuously of a woman, who, if she had not exactly the manners of the Court, and who, perhaps, even by her long residence in the country, had lost a little of the refined tone, and the polish which, in fact, she formerly possessed, yet who certainly was no object of ridicule;—who had by no means sought the intimacy of the noble lady, but was enticed by her flattery; and who, at the same time, shewed her noble friend, as she supposed her, a thousand civilities and attentions, sometimes by offering her a little present on her birth day; sometimes by undertaking unpleasant jobs of work for her.

I felt all the unworthiness of this false behaviour, and was, at first, inclined to speak my mind on the subject to Mr. von Buttenberg; but, on maturer consideration, I perceived that it was unjust to make the poor man accountable for the misbehaviour of his foolish wife. He had enough to suffer from her himself, as I well knew; and he never offended any one, never spoke ill of any one, and had so much politeness and civility in readiness for every one, without distinction, that I am convinced
that

that he died of no other sickness (his death happened soon after I left Wallerthall) than of an ill-received compliment.

It was therefore determined, that, without any further explanation, my wife should never put her foot again in the house of Mr. von Buttenberg, but that I should appear ignorant of the whole affair.

I thought, now my wife was disgusted with great people, would be the best opportunity to impart to her my plan concerning our son Gottfried. "Thou seest, my love," said I, "how little good luck attends us, when we want to associate with those of a higher rank. Dost thou still remember the first happy years that we passed in Mehlbach, as good simple country people?—We have never seen such happy, careless days since. And also, this is the only kind of life that is fit for our children: every thing reminds us of it: but above all things, the daily decrease of our property. Let us then return to our former simplicity and economy; and as it will now soon be time to prepare our eldest son for his destination, let us therefore consider deliberately, and without prejudice, what we are to do with him. I would

with first to hear what thou hast to propose, and then I will give thee my opinion."

My wife now brought forward various plans ; I shewed her in each the insurmountable difficulties, which a young man, without fortune or connexions, must encounter: and I succeeded at last, in convincing her that the surest plan was for our son to learn a trade.

It cost me many a hard battle before I could obtain my point ; and I was obliged to call to my assistance all the steadiness of the head of the family, to enable me to succeed. A kind of an accommodation at last settled the affair between us. She acquiesced ;—but, under the following conditions :—that, in the first place, Gottfried should not serve his apprenticeship in a town too near, and that, above all things, our acquaintance should not be informed of this plan ; and, that on the other hand, I should give up to her entirely the education of our daughter, and not in the least interfere in it. I found the greatest reluctance in acceding to this last point of the accommodation ; but what could I do ?—she was also the mother, and certainly most heartily meant to act for the good of her children.

Hardly

Hardly was this affair settled, when my wife set herself to work in good earnest, with great assiduity and zeal, but truly in her own way, about the education of the little Julia. I have already mentioned that M. von Buttenberg had also an only daughter; every one spoke of her as of a most amiable child; and now all my wife's ambition, or rather her maternal vanity, was bent to bring up our little girl in such a manner, that people should no longer talk of the young lady, but hold up the Amtsrath Gutman's daughter as a pattern. This undertaking was not, however, so easily put in execution, for young M. von Buttenberg appeared, in fact, in a very amiable light. She was indebted for her earliest education to a relation, who was Canoness* in a female religious institution. This sensible woman loved the child, and perceived very well that she could not learn

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much

* In these sort of religious institutions, they generally undertake the education of girls of family; the Canonesses themselves are all noble, dress like other people of their rank, and go into the world; and, indeed, such institutions are more to be considered as a provision for women of family, but without fortune, than any thing else, as they have always a handsome revenue. They are, however,

much good from her mother. For this reason, she begged permission to take her back with her to the religious establishment to which she belonged, which was readily granted her. There the little thing remained till her tenth year; and when at that time her parents sent for her home, her benefactress took care to provide a clever governess for her, to continue in her father's house the good work of education that had been begun.

In spite of the distance at which the two mothers lived, ever since the scene I have described, still the children did not break off their acquaintance; and I now plainly perceived, that my plan of bringing up Julia in nature and simplicity, as a country girl, would be entirely frustrated, I was not displeased that she should find in M. von Buttenberg, a companion, from whom, at the same time that she learnt refined manners, she would not learn refined vices.

I must do my wife the justice to say, that our daughter made such remarkable progress under her hands, that all the strangers who visited us took pleasure in talking to this child; and that even myself, I was often surprised at her wit, and the acuteness of her judgment. At the same
time

time, I often sighed in silence when I saw the great piles of new books, the contents of which were now swallowed with avidity by both mother and daughter; among which there were, in fact, many which only served to excite the imagination unnecessarily—to give the mind a turn to sentimentality—and to awaken in the young girl, imperceptibly, a spirit for adventures. As my wife had hardly any society, it would have been cruel to have denied her the pleasure of procuring herself sometimes an hour's amusement by reading. My friend Freyman had offered to send us any book that we wanted to read. At first, I interfered a little in the choice; but they complained of the severity of my principles—were out of humour—hid books from me—my daughter's heart was estranged from me—she began to fear and avoid me, her truest friend; and so, at last, I grew tired of preaching, and let mother and daughter go on their own way, firmly resolved, that when once my daughter, by reading these cursed romances, should have wantonly created sufferings for her own heart, she should bear the consequences of her folly, and that I would not suffer it to occasion me one grey hair.

Where the father and mother do not act ac-

according to an uniform, well considered, and invariable system—where there is a difference of principles—or where there are no principles at all on one side—and not even sufficient intelligence to conform to the system of the wiser half—and at least not to put any obstacles in his way; in that case, the education of the children cannot succeed well. Among the romantic ideas which my daughter had acquired, from her novel reading, one was, a great notion of freedom and independence. She often said to her mother, that she would rather never marry in all her life, and earn her bread with the labour of her hands, than be, as she called it, a slave to any one. Another time, she wished she might have a simple husband, only five degrees better than a fool, and that would let her act just as she pleased.

It was the duty of her mother to have refuted such errors—to have shewn her that a woman can never be free—that it is the destination of the sex, which is the weakest both in soul and body, to be always under protection and guidance—that women are repaid for this apparent constraint, by many other advantages and privileges, by the greater attention and respect that is paid to them, by being exempted from the heaviest

heaviest labours, from the care of providing for their families, and from responsibility, and by the protection they receive from the law—that nature has given them the means, by artless charms and soft persuasion, to soften the harshest tyranny—that virtuous young women, full of mistrust of their own weakness, for their own security, ought never to wish to weaken the bonds that make them dependent on the will and opinions of others; but much rather to maintain them in their full force :—that nothing is more contemptible than an husband who is under the dominion of his wife, or who does not trouble his head about her conduct, that the contempt he incurs always recoils on the wife herself ;—that a single woman, who, to avoid subjection, declines marriage, and chooses to live on the labour of her hand, is the object of suspicion in her youth, and of pity in her old age ;—that the happiness of living in domestic comfort, with a husband to whom she is attached, not by blind fantastic love, but by true and deserved esteem and friendship, of fulfilling her first, sweetest, and most sacred destination as a wife and mother, outweighs all the inconveniences to which she can be exposed by marriage. All this her mother ought to have told

her;* in my mouth it sounded like justifying and supporting my supposed severity. Her mother,

• The Amtfrath would have all this said, to convince his daughter that she ought to marry, to have a husband to protect and guide her; but how was he sure that she would be able to get one that he would approve of? if not, and supposing she was to survive her father, which in the course of nature she would, what a wretched, helpless, defenceless creature must she reasonably suppose herself according to the principles that had been taught her! And she would naturally marry the first person that offered, let him be ever so contemptible and unfit to guide even himself, (for such beings there are, even in the *stronger* and *wiser* sex) as she has been led to imagine that her bountiful Creator has sent her into the world, without reason to guide her steps, or any other means of defence, than *charms* and *soft persuasion*; very dangerous weapons, however, in the hands of such a being as woman is represented to be, as she can employ them with equal success for a *bad* purpose, as for a *good* one. These are arms, however, that the principal part of the sex do not possess to any great degree. But, perhaps *beauty* alone merits protection. There are, however, many women who have no protector or guide, and yet conduct themselves with as much propriety, at least, as their married sisters, or even the lords of the creation themselves; and, in general, we do not find that women conduct themselves with less propriety after the death of their husbands, than before; or if they do, it is only in the zeal to procure themselves *another* protector. Certainly, if women were brought

mother, however, did not say all this to her. There was often in the neighbourhood, balls, parties on the ice with sledges, and other similar dissipated amusements; and as Julia began to be considered as a pretty and agreeable girl, they always endeavoured to have her make one at these tumultuous entertainments. I did not think it right, to let her often partake of these amusements ;

brought up with the idea that it is their duty to improve their faculties, and be able to act for themselves, they would make better wives and mothers—they would be less likely to form improper connexions, and would be the more happy and respectable as single women. And if the rage of ruling is so strong in the wiser sex, as it is called, that they cannot bear to lose their sovereignty, let them be assured, that if they really are so wise, their empire will be the more firmly established by encouraging women to cultivate their understandings, as their wives and daughters, acknowledging and feeling the force of reason, would the more easily be led by it, there being nothing so difficult to govern as an ignorant woman. The husband then would not be obliged to exert his *authority* to make his wife conform to his reasonable wishes, nor would she have recourse to low cunning, or even to *soft persuasion*, in order to rule him, and to make him consent to what his reason disapproved of; they would have only one principle of action, therefore would be more likely to agree. No women struggle so much to govern their husbands as those who have been taught that they are not fit to govern themselves. *Note of Trans.*

amusements ; if it had been only to teach her the art of living contentedly without them, but principally because such bachanalian meetings disorder the imagination of young people : are equally dangerous to the health of both soul and body ; and blunt the pure taste for simple, quiet and domestic pleasures. My wife, instead of supporting me in this, rather favoured the little artful ways that were employed, by having it proposed to me by strangers, or by other methods, to put me in such a situation, that I could not well refuse such proposals, without being considered as a kill-joy, and a most extraordinary and whimsical being. It was adopted as a system, to make such applications to me *when I was in a good humour* ; and by that means, the child was confirmed in the idea *that I acted from caprice*. This tired me at last ; I let every thing go its own way, but I felt that my child, formerly so beloved, became a stranger to my heart.

I derived more unalloyed pleasure from my good boys, particularly from the eldest, who now approached the age when the understanding developes itself. He was a lad of sound sense and clear perception ; at the same time, healthy, generous, modest, industrious, and
possessing

possessing great simplicity of character; and I found no difficulty in inducing him to embrace the state of life I had made choice of for him. He was just fifteen, when the conscientious young man, who was private tutor to my sons, got an appointment; I therefore, thought this was the best time to place Gottfried apprentice to a clever and understanding Cabinet-maker, at Nordhausen, with whom I had already agreed: and I determined to take upon myself to complete the remaining part of the education of my son Daniel, whom I destined for agriculture.

At this time, the worthy instructress, of whom I have spoken, left the house of Mr. von Bittenberg, and his lady determined, with the advice of good friends, to place her daughter at a boarding school in the capital. My wife, who would not be behind hand with the noble lady, in care towards her child, represented to me, with the greatest eloquence possible, the advantages that would accrue to our Julia if she were sent to the same boarding school. There, and there only, she thought the girl would be able to perfect herself in those polished manners, which would wonderfully assist her other acquirements; in catching the
eye.

eye of some rich and respectable man, and open the road for her to a brilliant establishment.* There she might get a facility in foreign languages, in the fine arts, and in elegant female works. What could I do? I gave my consent. However, I first enquired very particularly concerning the character of the governess of this school. She was not indeed a Rhodolphia: for where can be found an instructress worthy to be compared to this excellent woman, who appears so completely formed for this difficult employment—gives herself so entirely up to it—lives only for her pupils—is to them so completely the mother, the instructress, and the friend—as our respectable Rhodolphia, at Hamburg? Nevertheless, this woman, to whom
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* Is not this perfectly consistent with the Amstrath's own ideas? As a husband is so necessary to *guide* and protect a poor helpless woman, she would have her daughter make use of every art to *catch* one; the woman who would use art to *catch*, would naturally, not let her talents lie dormant; use the same art to *rule* her husband after she had caught him, and probably with the same success. So that, in fact, according to this system, the *weakest* will rule the *wisest*; and man, wishing to be the *master*, is in reality the *slave*; the slave of the being he has degraded! But thus, in most instances, do tyranny and injustice undermine their own reign. *Note of Transf.*

we were going to confide our daughter, and who was the widow of a clergyman, was, however, strongly recommended to me by sensible people; and had given proofs of her cleverness as an instructress, particularly with such children as had been put into her hands early enough, and while yet uncorrupted.

I would willingly have taken the opinion of my friend Freyman, on M. Bartel's school; but, alas! just as I had sent away my letter to him on this subject, I received the melancholy account that this worthy man had died suddenly of a stroke of the apoplexy. I consecrated to friendship very sincere and bitter tears, and then prepared for my journey, to accompany my daughter to the capital; and afterwards to go on with my son Gottfried to Nordhausen.

CHAP. XIV.

UNEXPECTED MEETING WITH AN OLD FRIEND,
WHO RELATES HIS ADVENTURES.

M. BARTELS made a difference between pupils, whose education had been confided to her from their childhood, and grown-up boarders who were already educated, and who were only entrusted to her in order to polish their manners in the capital; and to acquire such instructions as cannot be procured in the country, or in small towns. With respect to this last class, in which also my daughter and M. von Buttenberg were to be included, she engaged for nothing more than to watch, as much as possible, over the moral conduct, and to give them as much good advice for their future improvement as they were inclined to receive with pleasure. This was rational;—on the whole, what I saw in her house pleased me very well; but, indeed, such a place of education can be
but

but imperfectly judged of, by what a stranger can perceive during so short a visit. I know schools in which they understand parade most excellently.

After I had delivered Julia to her instructress, and given the young girl a few forcible exhortations, which were probably forgotten in four-and-twenty hours afterwards: and had then, with a heavy heart, paid a visit to my friend Freyman's widow, I went on with my honest Gottfried to the place of his destination. There I found in the Cabinet-maker, Mr. Martin, an excellent man, with a sound understanding, an honest heart, and an air of independence and respectability in his manners. In his house cleanliness, order, and comfort, without luxury, prevailed. All this exceeded by far my expectations, and I left Nordhausen without the smallest anxiety for the destiny of my son.

As I made choice of the nearest way home, I came through Gottingen. It was near the close of the evening that I alighted at the Crown Inn, and the first person who met me at the door of the Inn, was the faithful old servant that the friend of my youth, Fuerstenruff had taken with him to the University; and whom I recollected immediately, though I had
not

not seen him for one-and-twenty years before. I enquired after his present situation, and learnt with pleasure that he was still in the service of his master, whom also I might have the joy of seeing to day, as he had been in this inn ever since yesterday, having stopped here on his return from a visit he had made his mother, who was first lady of the bed-chamber, at the court of ***.

I should in vain endeavour to describe the joyful sensations that took possession of my soul on hearing this intelligence. It is certainly true, that virtuous friendships, formed in youth, are more deeply rooted, and more lasting, than connexions of that kind formed in later years. We no longer devote our whole soul, in an age, when reason, experience and corrupting pleasure, have rendered us more prudent, more fastidious, more selfish. With the idea of my friend Charles arose, at the same time, all the sweet recollections of the happy days of my careless youth. I had also no doubt but that he would participate with me in these pleasing feelings; and the presentiment of my heart did not deceive me. My friend received me with the warmest affection; long did we hang speechless on each other's neck, and wept tears of joy,
till

till at last we became more composed ; and now innumerable questions, on our mutual fortunes, began a conversation that we continued till late at night. Soon we returned to the confidential language of friendship, and it appeared to us as if we were sitting again together at Mehlbach, under the shadow of the tall lime trees, behind the farm, where we were so fond of passing our time in the cool summer's evening, when we had escaped from the bustle that used to prevail in the house of the ambassador, in the days of his splendour.

Notwithstanding the affection with which my friend welcomed me, I found him on the whole, more close, more reserved, and less lively than he ought to be, from his age, when I reflected on the natural fire of his disposition. I judged from thence, that many mental sufferings must have depressed him ; and that made me so much the more desirous of hearing his history. But as the events of my life were quicker collected together than his, I began first to acquaint him how the world had gone with me, during the long space of time in which we had heard nothing of each other. However, from delicacy to him, I touched but lightly on the loss of the greatest part of my property
which

which I had suffered by means of the assignment of his father's estate to his creditors. It then came to his turn to relate, and he began as follows:—

“ It would now be too late to enquire how it happened that since the time of our being at the university, all external connexion between us should so entirely have ceased. The war first interrupted our correspondence; and it so happens, that when once a breach of that kind is made, it is difficult to renew the correspondence again. There is so much to go back to, a person does not know where to begin. Events also crowded so thick on me, and I fell into such a vortex of business, inquietudes and dissipation, that I feared lest I would write to thee in a style that thou shouldst not perhaps have understood; and I had not leisure, and peace of mind enough, to give thee such a clue to the history of my heart as thou couldst have followed. I was also always in hopes of the moment that is now come, when a good genius would bring us unexpectedly together again.

“ My residence at Leipzig, and afterwards at Leyden, was not rich in events worth relating. I will only mention by the way, that I gained some painful experience even in this period of

my

my life. My heart, still artless, and open to the feelings of love and friendship, was frequently the dupe of bad and selfish men, without my acquiring, by that means, more prudence or coolness on the whole. I thought I had only erred from want of experience in my choice, and my faithful friend and tutor, Mr. Schmidt, (who before I left Leydon, obtained a professorship there, where he still lives contented with his situation) continued true to his plan of not interfering in the affairs of my heart, only when he remarked that my vivacity led me to steps that might have dangerous consequences for my future life. In other respects, he let me pursue the road of experience undisturbed, firmly convinced that thus alone true practical wisdom is to be acquired.

Immediately after the conclusion of the peace my late father thought it right to bring me to the Court of the Prince of ***, where I was at the same time placed in an office in the civil department. I came now into a world quite new to me; into which, however, I did not enter without some splendour. For as I performed my business at first without salary, my father gave me, in spite of his very embarrassed circumstances, a considerable annual allowance;

and

and I was treated with distinction in the town, being considered as a rich young man, with great connexions.

“ However, the constraint, the tinsel splendour, and uniformity of a Court life, would have been insupportable to my independent disposition, had not my heart been attached by the soft bands of love to a lady that I had an opportunity of seeing every day at the Court; and who, to my imagination, converted the tiresome old castle of the Prince into a fairy palace. This lady was M. Louisa von Korf, second lady in waiting to the Princess. The first lady in waiting, the Countess Merani, was more showy; and, according to the general opinion, more beautiful, more witty, more polished, more entertaining than M. von Korf; and also made a quicker impression on most men. She had been brought up for the great world from her earliest youth—had the highest Court ton; and possessed all the arts of the most studied coquetry. On the other hand, Louisa was entirely the child of nature, so artless, so unstudied, so void of self conceit, with so much native grace and worth; and, at the same time, a soul so sensible to every thing noble, great, and good; her mind so clear,
her

her disposition so peaceful, serene, and cheerful! —Ah! she was an excellent creature! I soon perceived that she was as little formed for a court life as myself; in vain had she looked round for a congenial sympathetic soul, ever since her family had placed her here, as an orphan without fortune; in this situation she stood alone;—every one called her a good creature:—but every one did not know how to value her exalted worth. We found each other; and the striking resemblance in our manner of thinking and inclinations, even in the least and most insignificant things, although my impetuosity often appeared to contrast with her gentleness, soon formed the purest attachment between us; we loved each other—we were devoted to each other, without having made the avowal of it with our lips. What happy days for me!—how favourable to my morality—to my whole existence! Why was I fated to destroy myself? This first, this last happy dream of my life! but fortune would have it so; and my disposition, at that time so ungovernable, annihilated the prospect of domestic happiness which would have awaited me, if this angel had become the companion of my life.

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“Although my father concealed from me the real state of his shattered fortune, yet I perceived very well that all things did not go on perfectly right in that respect; and I was confirmed in this opinion by the admonition he repeated in almost every letter, to look out for a rich wife: to which I felt myself so much the less inclined as my heart was no longer free. I had the prospect before me of a respectable and higher appointment, with a great salary, in the same department, where I at that time performed my functions to the satisfaction of my superiors; and when once I had got that, I was sure that my gentle friend would prefer a moderate income with me, to a Court life and all further expectations.

“I communicated this plan with frankness to Louisa; and did not conceal from her that I had but little dependence on any private fortune. As, however, it would have been unjust to have tied her by any engagement to my fortunes, which were still quite uncertain; I therefore declared to her, that I alone was bound by my word, but that she should retain her full freedom. But this generous-minded woman, promised, nevertheless, never to give
her

her hand to another, if she could not be mine.

“ So noble a sacrifice ought to have made it a duty on my side to treat her with the greatest tenderness; but my impetuous restless disposition—my expecting to be alone every thing to her, and my not being able to bear any competition either in friendship or in love, not even the appearance of it, converted me into her tyrant. I tormented her incessantly, with my jealous caprices; I required that she should neither look or speak, in a friendly manner, to any one but me. It is true, that I expected nothing more from her than what I fulfilled myself; but to expect such sacrifices from a woman, in the web of whose soul there is always interwoven a slight thread of coquetry,* was requiring too much. Besides, I

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carried

* Perhaps this may pretty generally be true, according to the present system of education, by which they are taught, that they are only born to please, and be admired. Coquetry is only the vice of a trifling mind; no wonder, therefore, that women, educated as they are, should be addicted to it. It is to be feared, however, that it is not exclusively confined to the female sex; but that the same defective system, and the contemptible manners, derived principally

carried my jealousy to such a height, that it was ridiculous.

“ The amiable girl, however, constantly bore all this ill treatment with patient equanimity of temper; and when, sometimes, her feelings were, at last, roused, and it came to a quarrel, she was always the first to hold out her hand, in token of reconciliation.

“ As yet, my jealousy had been doubly foolish, as the whole Court consisted only of men, who could not excite any interest in the heart of a girl, of Louisa’s delicacy of sentiment. At last, however, the young Count Geldern came back from his travels to the Court of the Prince, to whom he was gentleman of the bed-chamber. This truly amiable and respectable young man, soon treated Mademoiselle von Korf with

principally from a late corrupt court on the other side of the channel, have destroyed all dignity of character in both sexes. Mercier has observed, that the French perukeiers, dispersed over different countries, have been more fatal to them than French arms; and certainly, as far as they tended to introduce the spirit of gallantry, which had diffused itself from the nobility, even into the lowest classes in France, they have given an almost mortal stab to simplicity of manners, the surest support of virtue and domestic happiness. *Note of Transf.*



with particular, but modest attention. Who could reasonably expect that she should repulse his attentions with rudeness? It was not certain, that the Count united serious intentions with this very innocent gallantry; but even if that was the case, who could forbid him? I had no open pretensions to Mademoiselle von Korf, and a nobleman of his merit, and what in the world is no trifle, of his riches, might certainly make pretensions to an indigent maid of honour. But even this merit, which I could not be blind to, was what gave me the greatest disquiet. It appeared to justify my fear, lest he might be able to rob me of Louisa's heart. I was guilty of a thousand laughable and offensive follies, to which I was led by jealousy; and which, if my beloved friend had hesitated between the Count and me, at least, could not have served at all to place me in an advantageous light, and to secure me the triumph over my rival.

“ Even the most patient gentleness will, at last, lose its equanimity, by repeated ill treatment: a scene, on which I cannot reflect without humiliation, and in which I forgot myself publicly at Court towards Louisa, in the most brutal manner, at last forced her also



to feel resentment, and we came to a formal rupture.

"A reconciliation would still have been easily effected, if any good heart had interested itself for us; but wickedness and malevolence had only waited with watchful eyes for this moment, to divide for ever two hearts formed for each other. A false friend among the courtiers, the only one in whom I had any confidence, and to whom I now had recourse, in the necessity I felt of unbosoming my heart, threw oil in the fire, and endeavoured by calumny, to convert my suspicions of Louisa's fidelity into certainty, whilst a revengeful woman completed the work.

"The Countess Merani, although she was particularly courted by most men, felt, nevertheless, the full weight of the real and superior merit of M. von Korf; she now thought it was the moment to revenge herself on her for that merit, and did not let the opportunity pass. In the first place, she pressed herself on me as a sympathizing friend, condoled with me, —talked of setting on foot a reconciliation—endeavoured to calm my mind—shewed me all imaginable attention; then, by degrees, she mixed poison with the balsam with which she pretended

pretended to ease my sufferings. As I remarked that Louisa became uneasy at my new intimacy with the Countess, I was mad enough to put on in public the appearance of attachment in my behaviour to her, and to affect to pay my addresses to her. Soon this play became earnest; and, in short,—for why should I any longer detain you with the relation of my follies, and the coquetry of a revengeful woman? I entangled myself in such a manner, in the nets of this finished coquet, that there was no longer any hopes of returning to my injured and despised friend. She mourned in secret; but conducted herself with nobleness and propriety. Letters and presents were mutually returned; and I had the honour of being considered by the whole Court, as the admirer, and favoured lover of the Countess Merani.

When things were gone so far, Louisa began to treat Count Geldern with the greatest reserve, and even refused his hand, which he offered her. I now felt, but too late, how greatly I had done her injustice; but this discovery stunned me. —Let me hasten from these painful recollections! My eyes were soon completely opened:—when the Countess had atchieved her work, she was no longer anxious to keep up

appearances with me, but shewed herself in her true form. It was still time enough, when I discovered her infamous connexion with a Valet belonging to the Court, to fly from the abyss, in which, perhaps, otherwise she might have precipitated me; but it was too late to return to Louisa; she had yielded to the request of her family, and perhaps to despair, and was become the wife of the old Privy-Counsellor, Mr. von Meinau. She fulfilled all the duties of a wife, and mistress of a family, to this rich, and, at the same time, respectable old man; and those of a good mother, to the children he had by a former marriage. She had not concealed from him, that she could as little bring him in marriage a disengaged heart, as a fortune: but he was perfectly happy with her. A year and a half ago, he left her a widow, and well provided for.

“ But it is already late, my dear friend, and thou art tired with thy journey; to-morrow, if thou hast patience to listen to me, I will relate to thee the rest of my history, and I promise to be less prolix.”

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

CONTINUATION OF THE HISTORY OF MR. VON
FUEERSTENRUF.

IT had not been the intention, either of my friend Fuerstenruf, or of myself, to have remained longer than one night at Gottengen; but now that we had found each other again so unexpectedly, we could not possibly determine to separate once more, after a conversation of only a few hours. We therefore remained together the whole of the following day, without stirring from the inn, and he continued to relate to me his history, by which means the morning and part of the evening passed away unperceived. This is what he related to me:—

“After all that I had experienced” my friend said, “at ***, the residence at that Court, where every object recalled to me melancholy and painful recollections was become to me an absolute hell. However, my fortune

did not permit, and my parents would never have consented, that I should have given up the service of the Prince, without some other good provision elsewhere. The arrival of the Duke of ***, who knew me, thought well of me, and had once already offered to take me into his service, drew me from this embarrassment. I was indebted to my musical talents only, (which, in his eyes, gave a man some consequence) for this his attention to my insignificant person. Added to which, neighbouring petty Courts are very fond of taking away from one another, useful people, or those whom they consider as such. Notwithstanding their mutual assurances of friendship, and their frequent visits, they are never wanting in jealousy and animosity against each other: and as it is not in their power, after the example of greater potentates, to rob each other of provinces, they content themselves with these lesser conquests. As soon as I had got my dismission, the Duke appointed me one of the Counsel of Government, and Gentleman of the Bed-Chamber.

“ My fiery disposition, that made me restless, and drove me out of the common road, filled me now with the idea of shining as a man of business, and of taking an active part in public

lic affairs; and as love and friendship had turned their backs on me, ambition became the idol to which I devoted all the energies of my mind; but I was as yet too unacquainted with the slippery ground, on which I was to make my evolutions, not to slide at every step.

“ The great art, by which all adepts in the tiresome and contemptible, but no less high and ruinous game of a Court life, have the advantage over the novice, consists in the coolness, prudence, and secrecy, with which they contrive to shuffle their cards, to keep themselves to themselves, and to conceal their game; whilst the novice lets his neighbour look into his hand, and what is not discovered by that means, he publishes by the trouble that appears in his air and countenance. I also engaged too heartily in whatever I undertook—fancied I was become extremely suspicious and reserved—and yet put myself in the power of every knave, who knew how to tickle my vanity, or to excite the fire of my character, and make me talk. My artless heart despised all crooked ways; opposed by word and deed all injustice and deceit; attacked boldly and openly disguised malice, stupidity clothed in power, and hypocrisy; and

it therefore very naturally happened, that the whole gang of fools and knaves, without any pre-concerted plan, united, at last, in a league, to keep watch over me.

“ The Duke was an old unfeeling man of the world, who, perhaps, had never since his childhood, felt pure benevolence for any living creature. But he paid much attention to any one who could amuse him agreeably; and a person had only to make use of, and flatter his weaknesses and his inclination to idleness, and a life entirely devoted to sensual pleasures, to lead him wherever he would, and to obtain every thing from him; only it was necessary, that this influence over him was not too perceptible; for the Duke fancied always that he did not permit any one to govern him—did often the reverse even of what was proposed to him—and was not displeased to see his courtiers separated by dis-union and jealousy, as he then hoped to come at the intrigues of the one, by means of the other. He was, besides, equally polite and friendly to all, without attachment to any, and had the same obliging face for him, whose dismissal he was going to sign the next hour, as for him to whom he intended giving advancement or promotion.

“ That

“ That I was not formed to become the favourite of such a man, to rise or enrich myself in his service, thou, who hast known me from my childhood, will naturally conclude. Nevertheless, I deceived myself with a part of these hopes. In fact, the Duke appeared to like my conversation ; my vivacity, frankness, and sincerity, amused him. I made his time pass agreeably, by means of the little of wit I possessed, and which he endeavoured to sharpen into satire against persons, to whom, when they were present, he was extremely friendly : and as he perceived that I had numerous enemies among the courtiers, he affected to have a great value for me, in order to enjoy the pleasure of increasing their envy still more. I believe, also, that I had at that time sufficient influence with him to have injured any one, had that been consistent with my manner of thinking ; but alas ! I cannot boast that I have prevented any evil, although I had flattered myself with nothing less than that I should be the reformer of the whole system of government, and the benefactor of his subjects, who were, in fact, horribly oppressed and burthened.

“ The Minister Mr. von Erlenbach, understood better the art of turning and winding the
Duke

Duke as he liked. I have never yet met with a rascal, who knew so well how to conceal his game, under the mask of the most unbounded dissipation, the most careless inconsiderateness, indolence, and thoughtlessness, as this merry knave. He affected certain follies, on purpose for the Duke to laugh at. Above all things he acted the part of the attendant on the ladies; run about all the morning visiting them, accompanied by his Valet de Chambre, who, (as he had the reputation of making excellent chocolate) carried his chocolate pot and mill after him. These, and similar follies, withdrew the attention of the short-sighted, from his very serious pursuits; but the country at large knew him, and cursed him; and it was notorious that he, who never forgot, also, to fill his own purse, was the occasion of the unceasing exactions, oppressions, and injustices, by which the government of the Duke was distinguished.

I considered it as the most meritorious thing I could do, to overthrow this bad man. I collected accounts of the cruel treatment, which the officers of government, with the approbation of the minister, were guilty of towards the poor country people; and of the laying aside of the most virtuous and most clever men, in the public

lic offices, when they did not belong to the cabal of Mr. von Erlenbach. These were simply facts that had been proved: and I ventured one day, when I was alone with the Duke, to lay before him a memorial on this subject, to which I added the most affecting verbal representations; but I found myself very much mistaken, in my expectations of the effect of this step. The Duke looked over the paper I presented to him with indifference and displeasure. He only turned it over, then laid the whole aside, and said, drily, "You would do better not to interfere in such matters. You do not see the whole; and it is not your business so to do. There is always something to be complained of; justice cannot be done to every one. In future do you only employ yourself about what is given you to do." And so the matter ended; the Duke was as friendly to me in his manners as before; and I am convinced, that he communicated my memorial to the Minister. This man was become necessary to him, in so far as he took all trouble off his hands, spared him all exertions, and always procured him money."

"It was the most sensible mortification to my vanity, that Mr. von Erlenbach, who certainly
knew

knew how much I hated him, did not once give himself the trouble to consider me as of importance enough to persecute me. He treated me as a young man—talked to me in a jesting manner—and often rallied me at table till he set me on fire;—and then, with the most cutting coolness, abandoned me to the insipid sarcasms of the courtiers. My presence of mind was lost, and my wit blunted, when my feelings, for what was good and great, was thus insulted; and I looked, in vain, round the whole circle for one being who understood me, and would reach out a helping hand to me.

“ At last, I did what is done by so many better men, who are condemned to a Court life, I kept my sentiments to myself, let every thing go as it would, talked only of insignificant things, commenced whistling, like the rest, (for it was the ton at our Court, for every one to vie with his neighbour in what are called sallies, unexpected repartees, odd fancies, play on words, and such foolish jests,) and soon I appeared so like the rest of the Court mob that it never could have entered the head of any sensible stranger, and such there were who sometimes visited this place, to consider me as any thing better than a true gentleman of
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the bed-chamber. Yes! as my nobler ambition did not bring me forward in a more honourable path, I sought to make some sort of figure as a wit; and felt a kind of pleasure, when it was said of me, "*ma foi! ce Fuerstentruf est unique, il a toujours le mot pour rire!*" However, I did not advance, although no one was preferred before me; but in calm solitary hours, I was very dissatisfied with myself, and with my situation, and felt most forcibly that I must here be lost, in a moral point of view, or that if I would yet save a part of my better self, I must fly.

"This was my situation when the Duke formed the resolution of travelling through Switzerland, France, and Italy. He was excessively fond of the fine arts, as I believe I have already said, particularly of music, and painting; and had also, in these branches, such information as is seldom to be met with among princely delehants. The end of his journey was, therefore, entirely confined to these objects. That among the many gentlemen, who were to accompany him, his choice should also fall on me in particular, was an event that I most wished; and I dreamed already beforehand of the sweet enjoyment, which the grand beauties

beauties of nature and art, in the most charming country in the world, would procure me; but to convert such dreams into reality, I ought not to have travelled in the suite of a Prince. It is true, that the one I accompanied could not be classed with the common run of men of this sort, who, without taste for what is truly beautiful, and every where pursued by ennui, drive about full speed every where; and wherever they stop, stare with eyes unanimated by soul, and listen with ears untuned for harmony; but to enjoy with moderation, calmness, and interior satisfaction, to enjoy and to relish—that he understood as little as all the other spoiled children of fortune. We overloaded ourselves, and at the same time overloaded our senses wherever we came with the finest things that could be collected together, hunted out with intemperance the most sacred treasures of art; one object pressed upon another. It was an incessant intoxication in which we plunged ourselves; and, I can assure thee, that at last, I was disgusted with objects that would formerly have delighted me.

“I will spare thee a description of our journey; two years were employed in it; we returned to Germany, intoxicated and satiated,
loaded

loaded with pictures and statutes, and other curiosities; and accompanied by artists whom the Duke took into his pay.

“ During the last weeks of our journey the Duke became unwell, and this indisposition, when he came to be quiet, increased to a serious illness, which, in a short time, laid him in his grave. As he left no children behind him, his cousin Prince *** succeeded him; and the whole scene was changed with us. It was a principle with the new Duke, to favour natives in preference to strangers, because certain obligations made him dependent on two families, who had not been able to rise under the preceding reign. This system, which could not have been blamed, had it arisen from any other source, did not promise me any good. However, I remained in the Duke's service; but the Minister, who was also a foreigner, and whom the Prince, or rather this family club, could never endure, received his dismissal with a pension, and a hint to spend it elsewhere.

CHAP. XVI.

MR. VON FURSTENBERG CONCLUDES HIS
HISTORY. THE TWO FRIENDS SEPARATE.

MY friend continued his relation in the afternoon in this manner : " Of the character of our present Duke, I can tell thee, my dear friend, in fact, but little or nothing, as I have only seen him during the first fourteen days after his entrance on the government ; and, in that time he conversed with none but those who wore a military sword. He was in body and soul a soldier, and had been from his youth a General, in the **** service. And, at this time, the honour of directing the motions of the head and the hand, according to the rules of war, as a servant to another Prince, had more charms for him than the business of contributing in person to the welfare of many thousands, whom providence had confided to his care. He considered the country, of which he was now to be
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the governor, as a manor on which he was not obliged to live, and which, therefore, he had farmed out. As soon, therefore, as he had divided the business of government in the different departments, among the persons of those two families of whom I have spoken, and among their favourites, he went away, and has returned but seldom since to his Dukedom, and then for a short time only : but where, as thou wilt soon hear, I have never seen him since.

“ In the mean time, my situation was grown worse in every respect. A little before the journey of the late Duke, my father had visited me ;* renewed his request to me to look out for a rich wife ; and as he found me in no way inclined to that, he discovered to me at last the very bad state of his pecuniary affairs. During my absence, the assignment of his property to his creditors had taken place : sorrow and uneasiness soon put an end to his life, and when I came back to Court it was already known that I was a poor nobleman with a very confined income. This immediately changed the conduct of every one towards me : and as soon as the old Duke, whose favourite

I was

* In the year 1770, as we have already heard.

I was supposed to be, little influence as I had with him, was quite dead, I was considered by every one as the most insignificant of mortals. And yet, I can venture to say that, among all the members of the government, there was perhaps not one, to whom I was inferior in address and application.

“ This, however, might have been supported, if it had been atoned for by the inward consciousness of being useful, and doing real good ; but even in that I found unconquerable difficulties. Did I want to procure justice for the oppressed, against powerful deputy tyrants, but who were supported by the ruling party, then the minutes of the trial were taken to a higher Court of Justice to be examined into, and did not appear before me again ; or, the law-suit was stopped at once by order of Council.

“ The friends, clients, and cousins, of the governing families, were raised to the highest offices : I was passed over. Men, who were yet in their nurse's arms, when I had already studied abstruse sciences, and who, in fact, had hardly the understanding of men, shone now in the highest, and most considerable appointments ; and, together with their stupid cousins, looked down on me from the summit of fortune.

tune. I did not fail in any kind of justifiable complaisance ; and neglected no opportunity of shewing that I could be useful for something better.—It was to no purpose ; nepotism and base flattery always succeed better than industry, modesty, and merit.

“How happy should I now have been, if, in fulfilling the sweet duties of a father of a family, I could have compensated to myself for the political inactivity and insignificance to which they had reduced me ; and have forgotten my cares in the arms of love and friendship ! but I stood quite alone, and there was no one near me, who by friendly consolation cheered my mind, comforted and supported me, or chatted away the melancholy hours. It was not possible to efface the remembrance of Louisa from my heart. However, as my father pressed me so much, I had for many years sought, in the society of women who were generally accounted amiable, if possible, to find one who could supply the place of her I loved, and who was now lost to me. But by this means, alas ! I obtained a knowledge of the female disposition, and acquired such an insight into the general character of this vain and trifling sex, so weak in soul and body, that was not to its advantage ;

advantage ; and that for ever destroyed in me the wish of being chained to one of them for life.* And as for friendship—in truth, the disagreeable circumstances that I had experienced, had made me suspicious and shy ; but my heart, which was so ready to attach itself, was not as yet entirely locked up. Often I felt the want of mutual confidence ; and a trait of sympathy and benevolence interested me for persons, who appeared to me to be of a nobler kind. At the Court, indeed, I did not find such men, but in the town there was still some to whom I felt myself attracted ; and who professed for me the warmest attachment. However, even this dream vanished ; none of these, even with whom I had formed an intimacy, or who had sought mine bore the trial. One, to whom I had not only devoted a faithful and affectionate heart, but had rendered the most important and disinterested service, neglected me as soon as he no longer wanted my assistance. Others grew cool

* No wonder ; he studied their character at *Courts*, where, by his own account, the men are, *at least*, equally contemptible. It is at best but unjust to reproach women with the *weakness* of their mind, when so much pains is taken from their childhood to destroy all strength of mind in them. *Note of Trans.*

cool, or turned their backs on me, as soon as they saw me poor and without interest. They had sought me in my better days, only to shine by their intimacy with me. Many only loved themselves in me, merely the resemblance their virtues and defects appeared to have with mine; and considered it as a crime in me, when they discovered in me any good quality which they did not themselves possess. Few of them could bear the voice of truth; and my sincerity and frankness frightened away from me, men whose ears were only open to flattery. I do not speak of the swarm of those who only want to be agreeably entertained, and would only participate in my pleasures, but not in my troubles or cares.

“All these experiments destroyed my belief in sincerity, faith, pure love, and true friendship. I often thought of thee, my dearest friend, and of the friendship our hearts had formed in the happiest days of our life; and then, forgive me, the doubt came, who knows if even he, in the years when the passions arise, had been in a greater variety of relations with me, whether he would have held firm? There was but little wanting, at that time, to have made me the proudest and most
 L misanthropical

misanthropical of egotists. When I had looked about, so totally in vain, for a rational being who sought truth and perfection in earnest, who loved and exercised virtue without parade, and without secondary views, purely for itself, who acted consistently and from steady principle, as well in great as in little things, even when inclination and temptation were to be got the better of, even when it required exertion, self denial, and sacrifices: I then asked myself, is it really true that men are so worthless? or is it only thy gloomy imagination that paints them so? Are there none better among them, or why is it that thou in particular, who hast sought them with more eagerness and zeal than any one, should be so unfortunate as never to find them? Whichever opinion I might adopt, still I found myself miserable, and longed for a solitary life, retired from the world.

“ I now avoided all society, and dedicated myself entirely to science. Modern literature, and the fine arts, and all that works on the imagination and the senses; history, and every thing relative to men and human affairs, disgusted me. My heart and my imagination were fatiated; and intellectual excesses had
blunted

blunted my relish for mental enjoyments, in the same manner as an enervated voluptuary becomes insensible to sensual pleasures. But the study of nature and the universe afforded excellent nourishment to my mind. Above all things, I applied myself to astronomy, which drew me away from all earthly affairs; and, by these means, I succeeded at last in silencing my heart.

“But the unpleasantness of my civil situation still oppressed me. I calculated that if I was to give up my appointment, on the income I received from my property, (after having in vain employed every means to place the creditors on a different footing, and put a stop to the robberies of holy justice);—I calculated, I say, that on this small income I could live as a single man, in some corner of a great town, in a confined manner indeed, but in quiet, unobserved, without any anxiety for my maintenance. I was just resolved to take this step, and to ask my dismissal, when they came before-hand with me, in a very agreeable manner, and without meaning it, improved my situation very much. It happened in this manner:—there had been lately placed at the Court, a young relation, who, as may be taken

for granted, was a very ignorant, useless being : but who was, however, a *relation*, and consequently must be quickly promoted. To give him preferment immediately over the heads of the most clever and attentive men in office, could not very well be done, on account of the public. This obstacle must therefore be removed.—But there was no one properly in the way of the young gentleman in the road of promotion, but myself ; and I had, therefore, an appointment at *** given me. This place had been hitherto always given to useless old courtiers, or such persons whose faces were grown tiresome, and who were not to rise any further. It was considered more as a dismission than as a promotion ; and it was known that the business connected with this appointment was so small that it required little cleverness or exertion. But that was just the thing for such a humble being as myself, who was cured of all vain ambition.

“ In this exile I have lived for five years. The town is small, and since there is no longer a Court there, quiet and empty : my salary is very moderate—my sphere of action in the business of my appointment, confined and insignificant. But I have formed to myself an existence

ence of my own, in which indeed, many good feelings remain without an object, but my heart is tolerably tranquil. This heart, I acknowledge it, is become cold for all social and friendly pleasures; but I have, at least, preserved myself from absolute misanthropy. I see the follies of the world, without taking part in them; pity the weaknesses and wanderings of my brethren; and if the proud thought enters my mind of considering myself as better than they, I humble myself again with the reflection that only a different composition of my juices—a different organization of my nervous system—a different turn that education and fortune has given me, are the causes of my not being quite so bad, as I should otherwise have been. However, I feel a desire to do as much good as is in my power; and not to conceal any thing from thee, I think I have so much the more merit in it, the less passionate interest has a share in such actions. I consider only the duty I am under as a citizen of the world, to contribute as much as I can to the good of the whole. Without following the movements of a particular benevolence, I assist, in every thing lawful and right, all who want my assistance, and to whom I can be

useful, without considering whether I shall be rewarded with ingratitude ; and in full expectation that I shall be so, if another interest comes into my action. Careless whether my benevolent plans succeed or not, without complaining, if I have but rarely opportunities of doing good, I embrace coldly, but without hesitation or delay, every occasion of the kind that fortune presents to me. Yes! I am most content with myself when I am persuaded that I love and follow virtue, simply on its own account, in all its purity, and so to say without passion : that I do what is virtuous and noble, merely because it is right, without regarding effect, utility, or consequence ; firmly convinced that the purity of intention of an action alone gives it merit ; but, that every principle of conduct, derived from the utility of the action, or from any other motive, is impure. Least of all do I trouble myself, as thou mayest imagine, about the opinion of other men ; and as I know that a person who thinks and acts in this manner, does not please in society, where he can neither give or receive, I avoid it ; and, at the same time, avoid the opportunity of any longer tormenting myself about the weaknesses of those who are called honest people, and the arts

arts and malice of the wiser ones: and dedicate my leisure hours to science, reflection, and solitary walks."

Thus far the relation of my friend! I expressed to him my heart felt interest in his fortunes; but as I considered it as a duty not to conceal from him that I was not satisfied with his present temper of mind, and with certain principles which, as he asserted, he had now adopted for the rule of his actions, we fell into a philosophical dispute on the true moral principle, on the right idea of virtue, on self love, egotism, and the like. As I had for some time past reflected a good deal on these subjects, I presented him with the result of my thoughts. Perhaps it may not be uninteresting to some of my readers, (particularly at this time, when certain old and often refuted doctrines on this subject, have been cooked up again in some new philosophical schools, and only disguised in another phraseology), to read my private, simple, plain opinion on this matter, and which is far removed from all spirit of system. Yet as this will not be the case with many others, I will dedicate a chapter by itself to this purpose. Whoever, therefore, finds no relish in it, may skip the following pages, which can be done

without losing the thread of my history. But I always beg it may not be forgotten, that I write for more than one class of readers.

It gave me real pain to separate from my dear friend Fuerstenruf, and he also did not appear quite indifferent to it. But in vain did I press him to accompany me to Wallerthall; and it was with difficulty that I drew from him the promise of keeping up a correspondence with me in future. My objections to his system also had not much effect; it happens, as it generally happens on such occasions, each retained his former opinion, without having convinced the other; and I was obliged to content myself with the expectation, that time, if not perhaps some events at present unforeseen, would effect a revolution in his manner of considering human affairs. He returned to his solitude, and I to my family.

CHAP. XVII.

FRAGMENT ON VIRTUE, MORAL PRINCIPLE,
SELF LOVE, EGOTISM, AND SO FORTH.

THERE is no such thing in the world as pure virtue, always of the same worth, and considered entirely apart from its effects and utility. Virtue and duty can only be the rule of our conduct in our present situation, according to the relations in which we actually stand. For these being removed or changed, virtue, that is to say, the rule according to which we must regulate our actions if we would act well, changes also. For which reason, there is no particular action of virtue that, under other circumstances, would not be a crime, or an indifferent action; as also no crime that might not be in other circumstances a duty, and no indifferent action that under other circumstances might not be a virtue or a crime. Truth, for instance;—a man who had lived till

a certain time, without any connexion with other men, would have no idea of it, for it could not enter his head, that a person could ever be inclined to say any thing but what he thought. By degrees he would, perhaps, afterwards see, that in some cases, something might be gained by untruth ; and as long as his ideas of the remote consequences of an action were bounded, a lie must appear to him a very innocent thing, (the same as a theft appears to the man of nature, whom we call savage, as a very indifferent, nay even a very useful action, as he has no idea of property).—As he advanced in information, he would perceive, for the first time, that the mutual violation of truth destroys the band of society ; and now he begins to form an idea of truth, and to raise it into a virtue. The union of opinions on this subject, converts this virtue into duty ; and when civil society, for its security against men of a perverted, or a paradoxical turn of mind, takes measures for the exercise of what is considered as virtue and duty, by the greatest number, it makes laws for that purpose ; and if these laws are founded on the orders of the most high Being, they become religious duties. This is the order of progression. No one will deny that

that the greatest untruth, if it could be supposed to have no consequence at all, would be perfectly indifferent, no one will deny: that the greatest untruth, if it could be supposed to create great good without any mixture of possible bad consequences, would be very praiseworthy; (as in fact, moralists themselves speak of allowable lies of necessity, but which I in no way agree to, not on account of the pure idea of truth, but on account of the incalculable consequences from the bad example; and because arbitrary exceptions and exemptions, in favour of particular cases and persons, are never to be allowed in morals). On this account, I hold it as an improper and unworthy mode of expression, when, in speaking of the perfections of the most high Being, virtues are attributed to him. As this all-comprehensive and perfect Being stands in no exterior relations with any other being, it cannot be supposed that he exercises certain conventional rules. It has, therefore, always disgusted me to hear it said that God is true. What equal has he to whom he can shew the contrary of this virtue:—truth did not exist before him, that he could follow it, but arises from him: he himself is truth. When he speaks, every thing in his

mouth is truth. No social virtue can be ascribed to him, for in him is the first idea of all perfection, which we, in that case, never can imitate; for with men alone can be found the image of this perfection, the practical application. Man can never be considered, in this sense, as a being existing by himself, but only according to his relations.

Murder is a crime greater or less, according to the intention, and according to the mischief occasioned by it; but unintentional murder is no crime; murder, in self-defence, is an allowable action; murder, committed by hangmen and executioners, is the performance of a duty belonging to their situation; murder, committed by the soldier in battle, is a duty to his country.

The marriage of brothers and sisters, ceases to be a crime, when (as was the case with the children of Adam, according to the Jewish history) the world can only be peopled by that means.

A blow given in sport or in play, is an action entirely indifferent; a blow given in the heat and impetuosity of anger, is an immoral action; a blow given from studied revenge, in cold blood, is an infamous action; should it happen so unluckily, as to kill the person struck, it
amounts

amounts to the crime of murder; a blow, which a father gives a child, by way of correction, is the fulfilment of a parental duty.

Therefore, when we talk of the merit of our actions, and of the principles according to which we direct them, every thing depends on the end, the circumstances, the utility or inutility. Every one will allow, that a person has so much the more merit in a good action, the greater and the more general the utility that is occasioned by it. When, also, the merit of a virtuous action, can be estimated according to the degrees of its utility, it follows from thence that the action has no merit, by which no good is effected, or from which none can be expected, even if it should wear the pure dress of virtue. He, who from gratitude to a man who has shown him great kindness, procures him advantages of which he is unworthy, and which he may misuse, exercises in effect the pure virtue of gratitude; but he commits, at the same time, a very bad action.

If we take simply the unmixed feeling, or pure knowledge of intrinsic worth of an action, as the right moral motive, that ought to govern us in the performance of it, we should never obtain simple, general, and uniform ideas of virtue; as the views and ideas of men are as various

rious as their feelings; while, on the other hand, men can easily agree in the unequivocal utility of an action. Nay, according to this, every impulse of sensibility, every constitutional virtue, the execution of any unwise, but well meant design, sketched by a benevolent pencil, would have as much merit as a generous scheme formed by deep reflection, and all the efforts and sacrifices of a great man. Let not the example of the widow's mite be here opposed to me; I do not say that the sum of what has been effected, regulates the goodness of the action; it is not the object obtained, but that aimed at, as far as it was actually useful and rational, that is good.

Simple good will, without regard to consequences and effect, cannot possibly have great merit. But let me be well understood in this place: we are not here talking of the uncertain consequences, which depend on fortune and providence; and consequently cannot be attributed to the agent; but of the rational calculation of possible and probable consequences and of the object and effective utility which a person promises to himself in an action.

I maintain also, that our ideas of virtue and duty can only be formed by considering our known

known relations—that they can only be applicable according to these relations, and that they must have for object these relations, to accomplish their end: consequently these virtues would not exist, for a being entirely insulated, excepting the few that have for object his own particular welfare and support, as for instance, temperance. But even this temperance itself is only a virtue, in so far as it is useful: for was it possible to suppose, that intemperance did not destroy our bodies, blunt our intellectual faculties, make us incapable of higher considerations, raise stormy passions in us, and create satiety and disgust; there would be no reason why we should deny ourselves any sensual enjoyment.

If our temporal relations cease, or be changed, the rule of virtue must also cease to be the rule of our conduct, and we must act by other laws. It may therefore be supposed that beings, who here on earth, must act on moral principles, sanctioned by religion, whenever their personality shall cease, and they shall be formed to act in a greater circle; may, perhaps, perform their course according to mathematical or other rules. Certain it is, that in this world they will be so much the happier,

happier, the more they have observed the laws of morality. But it is arrogant and rash, to pretend that this law can have place even in another world; that beings, nay, even God himself, is subjected to it, and that it is founded on eternal principles. We do not even know, whether we shall not, perhaps, exchange all what are called the faculties of the soul, understanding, reason, wit, reflection, will, &c. in a future state, for faculties of quite another kind.

As I believe I have now proved, that all our ideas of virtue and duty arise from, and are connected with our actual situation, (which I consider as the imperfect temporal state.) I conclude from thence, that the first considerations must be derived from our own selves. This appears to lead to the most horrible selfishness; it rests with me to prove, the contrary.

Whoever should doubt that self-love, and the desire of enjoying all possible good in this world, are the first and most natural incentives of man, would not do credit to the soundness of his understanding. As soon as we have a sense of identity, and of separate existence, nothing can interest us so much, as one's ownself; the

the satisfaction of our own wants, and our agreeable and disagreeable sensations, and I consider the old maxim, "*fac ea, quæ te, statumque tuum in diem reddunt perfectiorem,*" as the only rational fundamental principle of a pure system of natural rights, although it has been thought proper to deduce the new system of the rights of men from other principles.

But soon man perceives that to make his situation more perfect and more happy, he is in want of things and persons independent of himself, and that he must enter into certain relations, consent to certain limitations and accommodations with other men, if he will not be every moment in danger of seeing the enjoyment and happiness he seeks, destroyed by the efforts of others, to obtain the same. Every object of society, every self-denial and sacrifice, the exercise of every virtue, and the performance of every duty, has, also, for first principle, the promotion of individual happiness; and all efforts for the greatest good of the whole, would be neglected, if he who performs them, did not make a part of the whole: great virtue would be unexercised, if the idea of obtaining by those means, a higher degree of intellectual pleasures, did not create the incentive to them. Our
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own self, therefore, is always the first object for which every thing is done; and it is also very right that it should be so; and if every one took care of himself, and his real true happiness and perfection, and at the same time paid so much attention to others, as was necessary by his own connexion with them, and by mutual assistance to encrease his own portion of happiness, the world would always go on very well.

But if man was always to employ his reason, in calculating what he was to gain by every action, many a noble deed would remain unperformed; and, at least, no one step would be taken, of which the consequences were uncertain, and very remote. But happily man does not always calculate; the wise Creator has given him, together with his reason, a body, as well as sensibility also, and a nervous system, easily worked on. He feels himself attached to an object, or impelled to an action, without knowing why, by benevolence, love, and desire, of which he can give no account to his reason. Even the greatest sacrifices procure him an internal joy and satisfaction; and these are the fine bands that tie man to man, and secure him from the ill effects of self-love. These better feelings

feelings also serve to direct the conduct of him whose understanding is not ripe enough to convince him that the advantage arising from the exercise of the more exalted duties, falls back on himself; they also preserve him from secret actions which might be injurious to others, though apparently advantageous to himself. These feelings are strengthened by education, and religious instruction; and civil society, by means of punishment, has put a bridle on those who have entirely suppressed them, so that their perversity occasions no mischief.

The greatest moral perfection appears also in our actions, when our reason and our feelings are in the greatest harmony, and balance each other.

But there are principally four different manners of conducting ourselves, four principles of action that guide us.

Some men, for instance, are induced by their perverted reason to place the happiness of their situation, in the satisfaction of their stormy, immoderate passions, humours and caprices, to which they sacrifice every thing: and neither attend to the beneficial effects that would result, even to themselves, from the performance
of

of mutual social duties, nor suffer benevolent feelings to arise in their mind. These men can only be called thoroughly contemptible egotists, injurious to civil society. If ever such men do any thing good, it is only when by so doing they can, at the same time, gratify some of their passions.

Others, whom nature has endowed with very tender feelings of the best kind, and a lively fancy, follow in their actions only the impulse of these feelings, and of their imagination, without consulting reason, prudence, or an attention to their own repose and happiness. This was the case with my friend Fuerstenruf in the first period of his life. Such men merit love and compassion; but they enjoy few cheerful happy days. Every moment they find themselves deceived in their sweetest, but too highly wrought expectations:—every moment they see some of their generous, but romantic plans destroyed:—every moment they feel that they are the sacrifice of their noble enthusiasm.

Others again, who have been repeatedly deceived in the world, propose to themselves that they will no longer reap sorrow and trouble in

return

return for their virtuous intentions : they wish, therefore, to stifle their feelings of benevolence, determine no more to give themselves up to others, as formerly, but always to act with cold blood, to do good purely because it is good, without personally interesting themselves for the objects of their benevolence. In this system, the child of despair, which Fuersternuf believes now that he has adopted, people are never really sincere : and the better feelings they have endeavoured to suppress carry away their reason ten times in a day. It cannot even last as it has no foundation ; as good ceases to be good when it has no rational object ; and to throw away benefits on the unworthy, and to take steps which a person fancies he is convinced before-hand that they will have no effect, cannot possibly be called a rational and proper object ; I will, therefore, venture to maintain, that he who has actually stifled all sensations of benevolence, and the feeling how much this benevolence promotes his individual happiness, is not at all capable of truly virtuous actions. He must, if he despise all human nature, either lose all respect for himself also, or believe himself alone superior to all others ; and, in the
 case,

case, when he does good, he can have no other object than to tickle his vanity by it. It is evident that this is contemptible egotism, although not of a nature so injurious to society as that before described.

And now that I am come to the fourth system, (if the three foregoing different methods of grounding the motives of moral action deserve the name of systems) I must speak in my own name; for this is the system according to which I have regulated and still regulate my manner of thinking and acting: firmly convinced, that he only who can boast of never having abandoned it, can be considered as a perfectly virtuous, wise, and happy man.

I readily allow, that in all my actions of any consequence, the promotion of my own quiet, happiness, health and perfection, is the principal object. But in order to obtain this end the easier, without either falling into collusion with others, or being a burthen to them, or even being dependent on them, or what is called fortune, which is the concurrence of uncertain circumstances, which could not be foreseen; I free myself, as much as possible,

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and

from stormy passions, great expectations, obligations, caprices, humours, and unnecessary wants. I therefore want but little, and can always procure this little with ease myself.

Without also being insensible to the worth of persons or things around me, I attach myself to none with so much passion that I could not do without it : and I may venture to say, that the deprivation of no animate or inanimate object in the world, could inflict on me an incurable wound. As little do I desire to be of more consequence, more agreeable, dearer, or more necessary to others than they think they can answer it to their reason, nor do I wish them to grant me that as a right, which depends merely on their complaisance.

My heart, however, is not shut to benevolence, nor to social joys, and the allowable pleasures of the senses. Only I endeavour to enjoy, with moderation and frugality, and to be able to give an account of my inclinations to my understanding. True merit, great abilities well employed, useful talents, pureness and simplicity of heart, well-directed activity, and noble consistent actions, make the most agreeable and most lively impressions on me :
and

and I am never conscious of any feelings with more pleasure, than those of esteem and admiration. When I err in my judgments of men and things, as it often happens, I endeavour to correct my views; but it does not vex me very much, for I do not expect, desire, or want much. At the same time, I know very well that the objects around me are not there on my account; but, also, like myself have their particular existence for themselves; and that if they pleased me, they might, perhaps, displease others, who would, in that case, be discontented, being possibly more dependent on them, or more in want of them than myself. I also leave every one to his own opinions, and his own manner of acting, in hopes that he will also permit me to follow my principles undisturbed. But it is particularly agreeable to me to meet with the approbation, the love, and the respect of sensible people, which I return with my whole heart.

I do not consider all men as bad, who are not just as I would wish them to be; but with those who act in a manner quite different from that in which I think a rational being ought to act, I avoid, when I can, any particular intercourse.

course. However, I can live very well even with those.

I am very ready to do any service or kindness to others, as far as is in my power ; and that I can answer it to myself. As the care of providing for myself, as I have already said, does not give me excessive employment, and does not require much expence of any kind, I have sufficient leisure, as well as strength and good will, to act for my fellow-creatures ; and it is a heartfelt pleasure for me to contribute any thing towards making others happy and comfortable. But I consult reason as much as possible at the same time—do not force my services on them—and do not sacrifice myself. According to the rules of justice, I devote my exertions rather to persons who are connected with me by the ties of relationship, neighbourhood, or by being natives of the same town or country as myself, than to strangers ; rather to such as I find reason to esteem particularly, than to indifferent people. I embrace, in preference, the opportunity of doing good, when the occasion presents itself immediately to me, rather than form phantastic and widely extended schemes. It is excessively agreeable to me to reap the fruits of my actions, and to meet

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with gratitude : but I never depend much upon it, and am not such a fool as to deny myself the pleasure of doing good another time, because once the affair had not succeeded so well as I had expected : however, I accustomed myself to be more prudent another time, in cases in which I have been twice deceived.

When, in my domestic and civil relations, I think I have done every thing that rightly and wisely I ought to have done, but have been so counteracted, or circumstances have happened unfortunately, that things do not succeed well, it is certainly very disagreeable to me, but it seldom disturbs my peace of mind long. After I have once brought this into security, I leave the event to Providence, firmly resolved not to let the perversity of others, or the caprice of fortune, overwhelm me undeservedly.

This is the system according to which I act. If I do not always remain true to it, the reason is, that I have weak moments and passions. If any one who may read this, should be so fortunate as to be free from them—it is happy for him.

And now it is full time to conclude this long chapter, in which my history is not advanced, and in which, alas! to the great sorrow of many
a reader,

a reader, I could not introduce one jest ; and, what is still worse, in which I have developed principles, on account of which, certain people who are accustomed to swear in *verba magistri*, will dispute to me the fine title of philosopher. So let it be : what is written is written. The same shall not happen again in future.



CHAP. XVIII.

ACCUMULATED DOMESTIC MISFORTUNES.

AS the system of which I have given a sketch at the end of the preceding chapter, and which I so warmly recommended to my friend, for the promotion of his tranquillity, had, for its principal object, to make me independent of men, and of fortune, and to preserve my peace of mind undisturbed by perverse accidents. Providence gave me soon after, and during a long course of years, the opportunity of putting this system into practice, and of trying it.

I began my journey home again in good spirits, and rejoicing before-hand at the welcome I should receive from my wife and my youngest son. A violent storm had cooled the air in the neighbourhood of Wallerthall, and I felt myself the more comfortable the nearer I approached my home. My wife stood at the door of the house, and flew to my arms as I
came

came out of the carriage. The pleasure of seeing her again did not suffer me immediately to remark, although it was pretty visible, that she had something on her heart which she wished to communicate to me with caution. She began, according to her usual way, with what she thought would put me in a still better temper of mind than that in which I was.

"Only think," said she, producing at the same time a letter, "Madame Bartels has already written. She appears quite satisfied with little Julia. She writes, 'Mademoiselle von Buttenberg and your dear daughter are already quite accustomed to their situation; they work and read incessantly, and have now also taken a singing master, belonging to the theatre of this place. I conclude that this is done with your knowledge, Mademoiselle Julia appears to have great talents for music: I am, however, no connoisseur in these arts.'

"And why," I exclaimed, "all this! and why must it be a player that teaches her?" "But my dear husband,"—and now my wife brought forward all her usual arguments—I shrugged my shoulders, and was silent.

In the mean while, my son, who was four-

teen years of age, came in: "Well," said I, "let us now hear, my honest Daniel, whether like a clever deputy master of the family, with the assistance of the hind, thou hast kept the farm in good order?—hast thou made thyself properly respected?—how are the crops?—Is it not true that there is a blessed harvest this year?"

Here the good lad interrupted me, with a flood of tears.—"Ah! father! it is all lost: not all, but more than the half. The storm of yesterday—the hail yesterday—has destroyed every thing in its passage from here to Hottensaeff."

This was truly a hard stroke upon me: this misfortune had fallen on the best part of my land; but what was to be done? "The good God had given it, he hath taken it again," said I, endeavouring, at the same time, to conceal my disagreeable emotions from my family, and especially from my worthy mother, who now also entered the apartment, and appeared to have wept.

But where was I now to get the rent for this year? There were no hopes of being excused the payment for a time. The system of the Chamber of Finance had been suddenly changed; the Prince had been displeased with
the

the director, and had dismissed him : whether from reason and justice, or through cabal, I know not ; suffice it to say, that the protector of the Amtsrathe was no longer at the head of his work, and the new director of the Chamber of Finance, who did not like the farmers-general of land, and who considered the Amtsrathe without distinction, as the creatures of his fallen enemy, was nothing less than favourable to them ; nay, rather, laid all kinds of difficulties and chicaneries in their way. I was therefore obliged to bear my loss with patience, and to take up a fresh sum of money, that I might be able to pay the rent agreed on.

In the following year, the harvest turned out very bad in all the country here about. New losses, new debts ! On the other hand, I received agreeable accounts from my son Gottfried. He was perfectly content with his situation ; and Mr. Martin gave the best testimony to his industry, and good conduct. He wrote also, “ that the young lad, in thirteen months, had grown more than half a foot ; and, at the same time, had an agreeable animated countenance—was of an active make—and as straight as a fir tree.”

In the autumn of the year 1781, it so hap-
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pened,

pened, that my wife, although she avoided all occasion of meeting with the lady of Mr. von Buttenberg, nevertheless fancied she had been, I do not now recollect how, ill-treated and insulted by her. About this time, and whilst she was still full of resentment against Madame von Buttenberg, she one day entered the room hastily, and, much as she endeavoured to conceal it, and perhaps did not even acknowledge it to herself, there shone in her eyes a kind of ignoble, revengeful triumph. "Now," she exclaimed, "we have fine accounts from the castle!—our housekeeper is just come from thence. They have received letters from the post—only think—for God's sake!—the young lady has run away from Madame Bartel's with a player!—they are all weeping and wailing at the castle: but it is now too late. There may be seen, what a malicious, unprincipled mother suffers as a punishment in her children!—the noble young lady, was always held up as a pattern, and other good girls, in whose education, however, their parents had spared no trouble, remained unnoticed. Who has now done best in the world? Heaven preserve good parents from such misfortunes! Much as I dislike

dislike Madame von Buttenberg, I am, however, truly sorry for her."

"That I should hope from thy good heart," I replied seriously; "I will go, however, and comfort the poor father: he is doubly innocent of the matter: but he is not the master in his house. And now tell me, once for all, whether I was wrong when I said so much against the reading of those cursed romances and plays?"

"Oh!" replied my wife, "now the poor books must again bear the blame, in which noble principles and good example prevail; the reading of them will certainly never occasion any evil—there is nothing to be feared from them."

"God grant it may prove so," said I, with a sigh. "But I will go.—I hope, however, that they will not pursue her. A girl of education that can forget herself so far, does not deserve that they should make a step over the threshold of the door to bring her back. She should bear the fortune she has prepared for herself;—for my own part, was I to suffer such a thing from my daughter, never would I see her again."

And with that I took my hat, and was preparing to go out of the house, when the post-

boy, who generally came to us the last, met me at the door and gave me a packet. The direction was in Madame Bartel's hand; I opened it with a palpitating heart;—a letter from Julia was enclosed in it. I ran over the whole presently; my equanimity of mind forsook me while I read it—my legs trembled under me—hardly could I hold the paper in my hand. “Oh, excellent!” I exclaimed, almost raging, and throwing the letters on the table, before my wife; “read! read!—thou hast brought up the girl for the great world;—now she is in the world. There, see thy work! my pre-sentiments have not deceived me. Who can give me my child again?” The words stifled me!—I felt that passion made me forget my principles:—I hastened away and shut myself up in my closet, in order to compose myself, and to recal my manly fortitude and my philosophy. Here follow copies of the two letters:—

“MUCH RESPECTED SIR,

“With very melancholy sensations do I now take up the pen, to give you an account that will grieve your parental heart. I hardly know how I am to begin, and how I shall express myself.

myself.—But it must be ; and God knows that I am innocent of it.

“ You know, worthy sir, under what conditions I received your daughter, as well as Mademoiselle von Buttenberg into my house, namely, under the reservation that it must not be expected of me to *educate* such grown up young ladies—that I could only engage to give them good counsel, as far as they would receive it—but that I could answer for nothing more, than that a young girl should neither see or hear any thing in my house, but what would encourage in her modesty, industry, and a love of domestic duties ;—that, besides, I should only consider your daughter and Mademoiselle von Buttenberg as boarders, over whom I renounced all maternal power and responsibility.

“ From the first day, I missed in both the young ladies, that peaceful, cheerful, unpreoccupied youthful turn of mind, that is so amiable ; and, on the other hand, perceived a bent to novel reading, and to every thing passionate, extravagant, uncommon, and romantic : which displeased me very much, and induced me, as much as possible, to keep them separate from those who are really my pupils. Some little exhortations that I gave them, from time to

time, on the subject, were very coldly received. The ambassador's lady, the Countess von Nesselbach, the confidential friend of Madame von Buitenberg, took upon herself a kind of direction over the young lady, for which she was fully authorized by her mother; and your daughter was inseparable from this circle. At the house of the Countess, where they very often spent half the day, a life of dissipation prevailed; and all the men of the gallant world had free entrance there. The young ladies were perpetually carried to the theatre; personal acquaintance was made with musicians and actors—a great number of useless books were brought into my house—they took a singing master, and would learn ballet dancing. I gave your lady numerous hints on this subject in my letters, which, however, as it appears, were but little attended to. At last, three months since, I declared to both the mothers that I could not keep their daughters any longer in my house. But I was then earnestly requested to have yet a little longer indulgence, especially by your lady, who then also, I understood, wrote a kind of letter of remonstrance to Mademoiselle Julia, which, however, had no effect.

“In

“In the mean time, a romance had been wove, between Mademoiselle von Buttenberg, and her singing master; and the worthless man contrived to excite in the two friends an unfortunate turn for the theatrical life. Mademoiselle Julia was only the confidant; but, alas! she suffered herself to be induced to go off with them. Had I had her by herself, perhaps I should have succeeded in restoring her truly good heart, to peace and simplicity; but Mademoiselle von Buttenberg was completely perverted, governed by her passions, full of dissimulation and a spirit of intrigue. And now—the pen almost falls from my hand, when I come to the melancholy catastrophe that followed.—The company of players had, as it was said, left the town for some days, of which I was very glad; but the worthless wretch, the singing master, had remained behind. The two friends pretended to have an invitation to the Countess von Nesselbach’s; with whom, as she was unwell, they were to spend the whole day. They went away early in the morning (their apparel and the best of what they had, they must have sent away secretly, by degrees). The evening came, and I waited in vain for their return. At last I sent to the
Ambassador’s

Ambassador's house. Judge of my terror—they had not been there at all:—I had their chamber opened, which they had locked, found an open note, which contained an account of their flight, and the enclosed letter,* from your daughter to you, in which she will have given you an account of this unhappy step.

“Yesterday evening, I hastened, in the anguish of my heart, to the Countess herself. With difficulty could I gain admittance; and when at last she spoke to me, I received, instead of the interest and assistance I expected, the most insulting treatment, and even reproaches. I hastened away from this unworthy woman to the Minister of ***; but he declared that neither he nor any Court of Justice could interfere without full power from the parents. Irresolute what I was now to do, I sent for my Cousin Counsellor Meyer, and desired him to endeavour, by enquiries in the town, to trace out the fugitives, but without exciting suspicion. He spared no trouble till late in the night; but, at last only learnt, that the singing-master, and the young ladies went off early yesterday in a carriage belonging to another town, from whence the company of players had sent for several to

go

* Which follows this.

go away in. It is supposed that they took the same route as the others. But who can know that?—I am not authorized to follow and stop them,—I have, therefore, passed a part of the night full of agitation in writing this letter, which I meant to have sent away by a messenger as soon as the gates should be open; but as the post will go quite as quick, I have preferred this latter conveyance. I must now, worthy sir, leave every thing to you. But I hope, from your justice, that you will not attribute any fault to me; but rather feel how deeply the disgrace afflicts me, which these two ill-advised young ladies have brought upon my house: and the injury of which is perhaps irreparable to me.

“ May God comfort you, much honoured sir,

“ I am with sincere respect,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ CAROLINE BARTELS.”

“ DEAREST FATHER,

“ Never should I forgive myself the step which I this day take, and by which, for a short time, I must distress my parents, were I not firmly persuaded that the event would justify it; and that, ere long, you will no more think

think you have reason to be ashamed of your child.

“I make choice of a profession against which you have an unfavourable prejudice ; but I do not choose it from inconsiderateness, or blinded by any passion whatever, not to run after adventures, but, on mature deliberation, as a free creature. Indeed, my prevailing turn for the dramatic profession, and the friendship I have for my Charlotte, who is attracted to this profession by a sentiment of a higher and more irresistible nature, and from whom I cannot possibly separate myself, has had some influence on my determination ; but my principal object is my ardent wish to earn my bread by my little talents—to be useful to the world—and to contribute all in my power to the promotion of virtuous principles and pure morals—and to excite noble sentiments. I am a girl without a fortune, and the prospect of filling my place in the world as the mistress of a family was very uncertain and remote : whilst my maintenance would have occasioned you a great deal of expence. Now, my abilities, if I cultivate them with assiduity, will procure me a comfortable income : and should I not succeed in shining as an extraordinary actress, at least, the fame of my

my irreproachable conduct will certainly reach your ears, and procure me your affectionate paternal forgiveness.

"I do not venture to expect to receive a mild answer to this letter, and shall therefore be silent for the present as to the place of my future residence, and will change my name till I think I have a right to appear again publicly as your daughter; and then, best of father's, your parental blessing will again be implored, by

"Your dutiful daughter,

"JULIA."



CHAP. XIX.

CONTINUATION OF THE FOREGOING.
NEW MISFORTUNES.

WHEN I got into my chamber, I walked backwards and forwards with great strides. I endeavoured to consider the fatality that had destroyed my domestic peace, in all points of view, ~~in order~~ to find some side on which there fell less shadow. After much effort I succeeded at last in coming to a more composed temper of mind; and now, I exclaimed,—“Shall then the peace of mind of a man of firm principles become the sport of a mad girl?—What is become of the resolution I formed when I gave up to my wife all my rights on this ill-advised child?—At that time even, I represented to myself still worse consequences that might arise from ill-managed female education; and was firmly determined not to let it occasion me one grey hair. What, if Providence had given me

no

no daughter?—Malevolent people will rejoice at my domestic misfortune, and will attribute all the fault of it to myself—so let them. Am I the more unhappy for that? By these and other reflections, I succeeded so far as to enable me to show myself to my family with a composed countenance; and I was about to leave my closet when I heard some one knock softly at the door. I opened it, and my worthy old mother entered: she came at the request of my wife to calm my anger, by her soft, affectionate persuasion, and to re-establish peace between us. This was not difficult to effect in the temper of mind in which I now was. I promised not to make any reproaches to my wife; but, however, on the condition, that Julia's name should never again be mentioned among us; and that there should be no mention made of ever receiving again the ill-advised girl. My good mother did every thing in her power to soften the severity of this sentence; but I remained firm. Although I knew, for certain, that the good old woman had exactly the same principles as myself on this point, yet she endeavoured to bring forward various arguments in justification of the step Julia had taken; principally what she had heard in favour of the
morals;

morals of the German stage : but I interrupted her—"All that," said I, "I have often heard, but only from people who judge of things by what they might be, not by what they are. I have seen in the war, the heroes and heroines of the theatre, and know what I am to think of them. I do not mean to say that there are no exceptions; but what person of honour will voluntarily, and without being driven to it by some unfortunate destiny, choose a profession, in which moral, virtuous and honest people, are only exceptions? I pity the young man or young woman, who conducted by their parents or urged by necessity and misery, have adopted this mode of life; and respect them very highly, when, by irreproachable conduct, they have merited the esteem and regard of sensible people; but a girl, who tears herself from the bosom of a decent and not necessitous family, to show herself to the public for money, deserves the most profound contempt. Therefore, let me request, that there may not be a word more said on the subject." And so saying, I accompanied my mother down stairs, allowed her time to give an account of our conversation to my wife: and then appeared in our family circle, with a calm unconcerned air.

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I did not, however, abandon my resolution ; in the course of the two following years Julia wrote me several letters, but they were all sent back unopened as soon as I knew the handwriting. However, I took no notice of her corresponding secretly with her mother, whom I nevertheless silenced by very significant serious looks, whenever she made any attempt to speak to me of her. It will hereafter be known what became afterwards of this female quixote. New misfortunes which happened to me, and which changed my situation all at once, made me lose sight of this object for some time.*

I have already said, that the new Director of Finance did not favour the farmer's-general ; and it was now, all at once, taken for granted, without distinction of persons, that they oppressed the peasantry. Notwithstanding that it was quite the opposite case with me, namely, that I was ruined because I did not receive
from

* Had the mind of Julia's mother been better cultivated, she would not have been so fond of the trifling and injurious kind of reading, which weakened her understanding, and incapacitated her from giving her daughter a rational education ; to the want of which all her misconduct and folly is to be attributed. *Note of Transf.*

from the peasants the imposts which were farmed to me, or for which I was accountable; yet they did not think more favourably respecting me than the others. If formerly they had been too ready to exact the arrears from the peasantry; now, on the contrary, I could not even get justice against the most perverse debtors, much also as my present circumstances obliged me to put bounds to my former tenderness.

This alone would have been sufficient to have consumed the rest of my property; but the following year completed my ruin. The mortality among the cattle emptied my stalls; I did not preserve one head of them. This loss was irreparable to me, and as now I could not, as an honest man, take up any more capital, I saw nothing else for me to do but to endeavour to get rid of my farm. This was, fortunately, a thing very easy to be obtained from the Chamber of Finance; but I was obliged to give half a year's rent over. It may be concluded, besides, that on this occasion, some of those worthy gentlemen commissioners came to Wallerthall, whose meetings I was to pay; and whom I was to entertain. For the live and dead stock which I had purchased for ready money, and which certainly was not of less value

value than at first, (deducting the value of the cattle I had lost) I received a trifling sum ; and after I had paid my debts with it, and sold my best household furniture, little more than 1500 dollars remained of my property.

My situation had never been more distressed ; and it oppressed me doubly and triply, as I had my mother and my wife to comfort, who were afflicted beyond measure. But one thing tranquillized me, and filled me with confidence in the assistance of heaven : and that was the reflection that I had not drawn this misfortune on myself by thoughtlessness and bad management.

However, it was necessary to take a speedy resolution, and to form a plan for the future. The little remains of my property was not sufficient for any new undertaking ; indeed, I could hardly look on it as my property, as it was possible that my elder brother was still alive ; although, indeed, after repeated public invitations in the newspapers, he had not presented himself. My first business, therefore, was to place these 1500 dollars safely out to interest, and to dedicate it entirely to the support of my old infirm mother. After I had, by these means, as far as I could, fulfilled the most
holy

holy of duties imposed by nature, there remained no other determination for me to take, but for me, and my wife, and my son Daniel, who was always of good courage, to live on the work of our hands. For this purpose, the capital appeared the most convenient place: I was in hopes, by means of my acquaintance in town, to find an opportunity of giving instructions in mathematics and languages; my son was to endeavour to get 'money by copying; and, if the cares of the house left my wife any leisure, she might also, perhaps, earn something by fine needle-work, embroidery, and the like. I therefore immediately hired a couple of chambers, in a little street, in ***, had the remains of my moveable property, carried there, and prepared myself, with my family, for our journey.

It was in the beginning of the month of September, in the year 1781, that we began our pilgrimage: truly in no very splendid equipage. To a little carriage, or, as it might be called, a covered cart, which in my better days had stood in the corner of a coach-house unused, was harnessed a purblind meagre horse, which till now used to carry about beer to the villagers; and which I had reserved for this journey,

ney, in order to sell it afterwards in the town to some carter. In this humble carriage sat the two women ; my son and I went by the side to conduct the horse by turns, and to make him go on.

I must say, to the honour of the people of Wallerthall, that although they were not on the whole so good a sort of people, and were not so heartily attached to us as those at Mehlbach, still no one of them discovered any malicious pleasure at my misfortunes: but, on the contrary, took leave of us with sorrow and affection. However, I perceived that my wife was less oppressed by anxiety for the future, than by the state of humiliation to which we were reduced from our prosperity. I should tell an untruth if I was to assert that I was perfectly at my ease ; but, nevertheless, hardly had I lost sight of Wallerthall, when hope and good courage filled my heart, and I interrupted the silence that had, till now, prevailed among us.

“Well, my dear friends,” said I, as I was preparing a pipe of tobacco as I went along, “see what a beautiful autumnal morning kind Providence has given us to begin our journey ! Is it not true that this is a good omen for us ?

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Yes,

Yes, yes ; heaven will soon send us still further assistance, when once we shall be known in the town—till then I am under no anxiety ; I have still reserved 100 dollars in ready money, which I have got with me in this pocket, and which are almost too heavy for me. With this we shall have enough for some months, with œconomy, and in the mean time we shall be able to earn something. I reckon a great deal on my Daniel. You will find that he will get such fame by his writing, that the Prince will appoint him his private Secretary at least.”

By these, and similar lively speeches, I succeeded by degrees in giving a more chearful tone to our travelling party. From time to time also other foot travellers joined us, with whom we entered into conversation. Among others, a merry journeyman Cabinet-maker accompanied us for an hour, who was full of merriment, and spoke highly in praise of his trade. This led the conversation to my son Gottfried ; and that was a new source of comfort to me and my family. When we got at the top of a hill, I told them the names of the places that could be seen from thence ; in this manner, time passed away imperceptibly, and we continued to approach the residence

residence of the Prince, and which was in future to be ours also. The phlegmatic disposition, and the weakness of my horse, prevented our finishing our journey in one day; we therefore stopped at a clean village-inn on the road, where we found a decent bed for the two women, and some straw for myself and my son. The next day we set off again early: I had the pleasure of seeing the faces of all the party look more chearful than the day before; and we arrived about noon at the town.

CHAP. XX.

FATE THAT ATTENDS THE FAMILY IN THE
CAPITAL. RETURN OF A LOST CHILD.
DEATH OF THE MOTHER.

WHOEVER has but had the opportunity of remarking how difficult it is, without intrigue, without quackery, and without great patronage, to gain a livelihood in a capital town, in an honourable and useful manner, (I say in an honourable and useful manner, for rope dancers, tumblers, fiddlers, and musicians, and people who pursue other idle arts, succeed better) I say, whoever has had an opportunity of observing this, will easily credit that my son and I took many useless steps at ***, in order to turn our talents to profit. We had it advertised in the weekly papers, that I was ready to give private instructions in mathematics and the languages; and Daniel offered his services as a writer. But one week passed away

away after another without any one presenting himself, who would give us employment.

I have ever had a dislike to disguising my name; and as I was not conscious of any action that should oblige me to conceal mine, I boldly named myself in the advertisement which I published in the weekly papers. But even this had a bad effect for me. A ci-devant Amtsrath was considered by some as an officer under Government who had been dismissed; by others, as one who had been cashiered with disgrace; or, perhaps, turned out for all kinds of bad actions; and as most men would rather believe the worst than give themselves the trouble of examination, this false idea was impressed on their minds and prevented my getting on. On the other hand, the learned corps of established masters disputed my right of giving instructions in the arts and sciences; of which they thought they had the right of monopoly. One day, as I was complaining of this difficulty to the widow of my friend Freyman, and that good woman who would willingly have given me some employment in her business as bookseller, or have enabled me to earn something as corrector of the press,

had not her pecuniary situation and her trade also been very circumscribed, was devising all kinds of plans for my advantage. Mr. von Woellenfurth, one of the gentlemen of the board of green cloth, at this court, entered her shop; which was only separated by a glass door from the room where I was. This man I knew at the time of my visit at Court, ten years before, for a courtier without character, effeminate, cold, and haughty; but he wished to pass for something better, applied himself a little to literature and the arts, and was in some esteem with the Prince and the nobility; and he affected graciously to recollect my insignificant person; Madame Freyman introduced me to him, acquainted him with my present situation, and recommended me to his patronage. Such people are not sparing in promises; he also offered immediately to give me his interest, and little as I depended on the performance of this promise, yet he kept his word this time in a certain way, for he not only obtained permission for me to give instructions, but also took the foolish idea into his head of being instructed by me himself, in Algebra. With all this, I remarked even in the first lessons which I gave him, that attention and reflection were
not

not to be expected on his side ; and that he undertook this affair principally in order that he might be enabled to chatter in company about his new studies ; he also put off the lessons very often, as he could not be got out of his bed till nine o'clock in the morning. At the same time, he believed himself privileged, in return for his patronage above mentioned, to pay me nothing. However, a beginning was made ; I was in hopes through him to be recommended to other better people ; and my son also procured a little employment now and then. But all this brought the money but sparingly into the house ; the winter, when every thing is dear, was at hand, and the ill health of my mother, which continually grew worse, increased my cares and expences. In this manner then my little provision of money melted away very perceptibly ; and the interest of the 1500 dollars, which I had saved, went also to the apothecary. However, I was firmly resolved to leave this capital untouched, as long as it would be possible ; and, rather to sell some of the household furniture, of which there were here and there some articles that were not suited to the house of a poor man. But, at the same time, I endeavoured to conceal my dis-

trefs from Madame Freyman: as I alfo made a fecret of it to my friend Fuerftenruf: for I knew that both would have preffed me to accept affiftance from them, which they could not give me without inconvenience to themfelves.

Under thefe circumftances, the character of my wife fhewed itfelf in a very excellent light. If, formerly, by unneceffary complaints ſhe had only made the little inconveniences of life more fenfible to me, it was ſhe now who infpired me with courage and confidence in Providence, or rather confirmed me in it; for I cannot fay, that I was for a moment funk into deſpair: my fon and I had ſtill ſtrong arms: and to gain as much by daily labour, as is fufficient to preferve life and ſtrength, and a ſound conſcience, does not require the protection of a gentleman of the board of green cloth.

My mother appeared to take but little intereſt any longer in any of the events of this life; ſhe grew every day weaker and weaker, and we were in expectation of ſeeing her ſhortly torn from our ſide: thus paſſed the February of the year 1782.

One day, as our little family circle fat round
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the bed of my dying mother, and Daniel was going to read something to us, a domestic affair obliged him to leave the room for a short time. He was scarcely gone out, when we heard a noise, and then a very loud conversation; and soon after, a too well known voice exclaimed, in these words:—"Oh, my brother! my dear brother!—I am then once again in thy arms—ah! do thou be my mediator—bring me to the feet of my best, my injured parents." And now the door opened suddenly—Julia precipitated herself into the room—and hung on my neck before I had time to acquire a certain degree of presence of mind.

He, who has never been a father—who cannot recollect with what pleasure he once pressed his first-born child to his heart, beating with tenderness and joy, may reproach me with want of steadiness in my principles, when I here acknowledge that, at this moment, every thought of severity and the determination never again to receive my fugitive daughter, were banished my soul; but feeling parents will find it very comprehensible. Added to which, misfortune makes us mild and indulgent; and who can repulse a child that voluntarily returns to partake of poverty and care with her parents?

But now my wife exchanged her part with mine. She, who had formerly been the advocate for the wanderer, now began to break out in unkind reproaches towards her. "Hey day, Miss!" exclaimed she, "how comes it to pass that we poor folks have the honour of seeing you with us?—Are you tired of driving about in the great world?—There is but little pleasure to be found with us.—The splendid life of the theatre will be strongly contrasted with ours"——I did not let her finish her speech; a severe look, and the reflection on her own heart, melted the rest of her words into maternal tears and complaints. "Ah! thou hast occasioned us much sorrow, wretched girl!—and since thy flight all kinds of misfortunes have poured down on us.—However, if thy father can forgive thee, I will willingly be silent and forget every thing."

"Only one word," said I, again interrupting my wife, "didst thou know in what narrow circumstances thou wouldst find us?"

"Ah, all, all!" exclaimed Julia, "did I know; and that alone could have given me courage to present myself before your eyes. I do not come to be received as your beloved child; of that I am not worthy;—I come to serve you
instead

instead of a maid ; and to help you to bear the inconveniences of life.—I can work, thank God ! my days and nights shall be dedicated to this sweet duty.”

“ This is enough, my child,” said I to her, and held out my hand affectionately to her. “ This decides.—Thou art welcome—as long as there remains marrow in these bones thou shalt not want, if thou art seriously determined to live virtuously and rationally ;—now I begin to augur better days for us.”

And now peace was soon re-established—all sufferings forgotten—and a day so happy that we had seen few such, in our fortunate times, followed this re-union. Even my mother appeared to be a little revived, and to look with more cheerfulness towards her release, now that she was at ease about the destiny of the lost child.

However, we all wished to learn what could have induced Julia so soon to abandon a life, which she had chosen with such a passionate inclination. She satisfied our curiosity ; and the explanations which she gave us on that head, completed the work of confirming to her my forgiveness. What follows is the substance of her narrative.—

As soon as the player and the two young women arrived at the town in which the company was to act, and where it expected them, they easily found a priest, without conscience, who pronounced the matrimonial blessing on the finger and Mademoiselle von Buttenberg. And then the two women were received as actresses by the manager ; at first, indeed, with a small salary, and a day was appointed for their debut.

Julia had imagined, as is often the case, that the theatrical art was much easier than she found it on experience. The manager found much fault with her on her trial—on her actual performance she gained no approbation at all ;—she began to fear that she should never shine as a capital actress ; and that first cooled the great warmth with which she had embraced this profession. She was, however, afterwards employed in another line of acting ; and there she succeeded a little better. But, unfortunately, she got by that means into competition with a young actress, who had till then been in possession of those parts ; was, at the same time, very pretty, a great coquette, and patronized by the young nobility. Julia had now to struggle against a powerful cabal, who fell upon her in the most unhandsome, and contemptible manner.

manner. She had now an opportunity of getting more particularly acquainted with the characters of those with whom she lived ; she saw, with horror, that she had got among the most abandoned creatures ; and as her feelings of modesty, virtue, and honour, were disgusted, this finished opening her eyes to her error.

It was not so with her friend—partly, because her first attempts were crowned with better success, and she made better progress under the guidance of her husband—partly, because love blinded the eyes of this worthless girl so much, that she saw every thing round her in the most delightful colours. Julia, however, soon took the resolution of forsaking the theatre while it was yet time ; and of imploring the forgiveness of her much injured parents. She wrote several letters to me, wherein she expressed the sincerest repentance for her misconduct ; and these being, as I have related, returned unopened, she persevered, nevertheless, in the resolution, whatever might become of her, not to lead any longer a life that was grown so detestable to her.

There lived in the town a lady of rank, who was universally famed for her virtue and benevolence. My daughter ventured to have recourse

course to her—related her history to her without reserve—requested her counsel and assistance—and offered herself to her as waiting maid : she being at that time just in want of a person in that capacity. The widow of the Privy Counsellor, Mr. von Meinan, (for be it known to the reader, that it was to her who had formerly been the object of the affection of the friend of my youth, to whom a fortunate star conducted Julia) appeared at first to have some doubt as to the truth of her story. However, my daughter succeeded in convincing her of her sincerity, and in being received into the house of this worthy woman, on condition that she should give up all connexion with the players, even with the companion of her follies ; and now the lady treated her in a truly maternal manner.

According to my daughter's account, the actual temper of mind of Madame Meinan, had much resemblance to that of Mr. von Fuerstenruf. She also appears cold, reserved, to take little interest in mankind, whose society she avoids : and to whom she does good whenever she has an opportunity. She soon completed the work of curing Julia of her extravagant, romantic ideas ; and, for that purpose, took

took care that she should be constantly employed. At the same time, she advised her not to take any more steps for her re-admission into the parental house, till her own heart assured her that she was perfectly worthy of it, and perfectly rational. This period arrived after some months : my daughter had, in the mean time, acquired confidence in herself, and now begged Madame von Meinan to assist her in a reconciliation with her parents. The excellent woman had, during this time, made secret enquiries respecting my situation ; and had received pretty exact accounts of the narrow circumstances in which we were. When she communicated to Julia this discovery, nothing could restrain my daughter from hastening to us. Her patroness approved of her determination, and thought it proper to leave her entirely to herself in this step ; but promised her if it should fail, to exert herself powerfully for her. With this, she gave her money for her journey ; and let her go. The reader is acquainted with the rest.

I felt strongly impelled to express my thankfulness to Madame von Meinan, by letter ; and could not refrain from hinting, with delicacy, however, by a word or two in the letter which

I wrote

I wrote to her, that I was not entirely unacquainted with the history of her heart.

Thus, in the middle of poverty, a part, at least, of our domestic felicity was restored. It appears, also, as if from that moment the favouring hand of Providence leaned towards us again. The occasion also sometimes offered of gaining a little by our labour; in particular, Julia found means, through the woman where we lodged, who was kind and ready to assist any one, to sell some fine embroidery which she had performed with great ingenuity.

In the mean while, however, what we had so long foreseen, happened; the death of my dear mother; which filled us with sorrow, and, at the same time, a little deranged our domestic circumstances. Depression of spirits, and inactivity, now prevailed, for some time, in our little circle—deprived of one of its members;—however, we soon took courage, returned to work again, and began to struggle with fortune anew.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXI.

NEW MISFORTUNE. AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE
RENEWED. GUTMAN'S JOURNEY TO HIS
SON. EVENTS ON THE ROAD.

THE good prospects of better earnings, of which I have spoken in the preceding chapter, did not seem as if they would deceive us. A whole year elapsed, in which I was not obliged to break in on my little capital; but provided for all the expences of house-keeping by what our industry procured us. Indeed, we lived with extreme frugality and prudence; but, we were chearful, healthy, and careless;—sometimes, of a Sunday, took a long and pleasant walk into the country, and began to forget that we had ever seen more splendid days: nay, my dear wife, gave up all affectation of grandeur, and consented immediately when I told her that I had hopes of placing honest Daniel, next summer, as Clerk in the Prince's service,
at

at the very same place which I had formerly farmed, and which was now under administration.

This happy temper of mind was, however, suddenly destroyed by a dreadful account which we received by the post, in the month of October, of the year 1783, and which was contained in a short letter from my son Gottfried.

He had accustomed us to receive frequent, and always welcome accounts from him :— his apprenticeship was nearly finished, and he was soon to begin his travels.* The day on which we received letters from him, or his master, was always a holy-day for us. This time, it immediately struck me, that the letter came by a different post ;—and, also, that it was not from Nordhausen—and that it looked so badly and so hastily written. I opened it with uneasiness, and read what follows :—

“ BEST

* It is customary on the Continent for mechanics, when they have finished their apprenticeship, to travel round the principal towns of the country : at each of which they work as journeymen ;---without which they are not supposed to have made themselves master of their business, and are not admitted into the corporation of the trade they intend to follow. *Note of Transf.*

"BEST OF FATHERS.

"Do not be frightened when you read this. I have had the misfortune, through artifice and force, to fall into the hands of an Austrian recruiting party;—they are now taking me to Glatz in Bohemia. We are on the march. The subaltern officer, who has the command, belongs to the regiment of ***. I have found means to write these lines secretly. An honest innkeeper has undertaken to have them conveyed to you. I will do every thing to get free; perhaps, also, you can help me. Only comfort my mother. I am till the grave,

"Your dutiful son,

*Gira, in Saxony,
the 10th of October.*

"GOTTFRIED."

The next day there came a letter, also, from Mr. Martin, in which he informed me, with the sincerest sorrow, that my son had taken a walk out of the town the preceding Sunday, and did not return to the house till evening. That he (Mr. Martin) immediately the next day morning, made enquiries, and learnt so far, that the young man had been seen speaking to an Imperial non-commissioned officer. That he knew that the officer had had designs on my
son

son for some time. That he went immediately to the recruiting officer, who, however, pretended to know nothing of the matter. That probably they had already sent him off, &c.

It may easily be imagined, what a thunder-stroke this was to us all. The two women lost all composure, and gave up their son and brother for lost. The good Daniel wanted to enlist in Gottfried's place; "it is less consequence for me," said he, "I only cost my parents money, and earn little." For myself, I remained for some moments dumb and speechless: I then collected myself, and quickly took the resolution of going myself to my poor son. I knew the road which he had taken, and the regiment to which the person belonged, who had trepanned him. "The commander of this regiment will certainly have more feelings of humanity:" said I, "I will find a man to supply his place, at my own expence; we will turn our little bond into money, which I will take with me, and offer to the commanding officer; and if nothing can soften the hard-hearted man, I will go directly to Vienna, and throw myself at the feet of the good Emperor: he will hear me; he will not wish to tear from a comfortless family, their last hope. Thou, my faithful virtuous Daniel,

Daniel, thou must remain with thy mother and sister: comfort them, help them to earn their maintenance; God will soon bring me back again to you all."

I had hardly said this, when I heard outside, the voice of a stranger enquiring for me; our landlady knocked at the door, and then entered, and introduced with her a well-dressed gentleman, in whom I recognized, at first sight, the treasurer Mr. Flackard: whom the reader will recollect, and, as well as the circumstance, that in my journey in 1770, after he had described to me, the melancholy situation in which he then was; I gave him 600 dollars; and left it to his pleasure, either to return me the sum at any future period or not, just as his heart and his fortune should incline him. He was now, according to outward appearances, in quite a different situation. He had, with the assistance of this money, married the lady he loved, and got possession of the appointment offered him. During the first years, it had not been possible for him to lay any thing by, to pay off his debt; he afterwards met with many misfortunes, which threw him back; he had now, for the first time, by means of an unexpected inheritance, lately acquired a little property,

perty, which had placed him in a situation to fulfil a duty to me, which lay heavy on his mind ; but he had found it difficult to discover my present place of abode. As soon as he had found it out, nothing seemed more pressing to him, than to set off with his bag of money, and come to me.

After he had endeavoured to express to me, all that a good heart inspired him with, he took out his mammon, and wanted to oblige me, instead of the 600 dollars, to receive 1000. I was strongly tempted in my present situation, to take, at least, as much above the sum, as the interest, during the thirteen years, might have amounted to. Perhaps, even I should at last, have yielded to the very pressing entreaties of the good Flackard, had I not concluded from his own account, that although he was in a situation to pay his debt, he, however, was nothing less than rich. I therefore refused, with firmness, to touch more than the bare amount of what I had lent him ; and thanked God in my heart, for having sent me this assistance, at so very convenient a time. It could be perceived, that Mr. Flackard was concerned, not to be able to persuade me to receive any thing more ; but also, that another delicate feeling restrained him
from

from continuing to be more pressing: it could not, in fact, escape his observation, when he threw his eyes round our little apartment, that we did not abound in wealth; and therefore, probably, he feared to wound my pride, by appearing to give himself the air of a benefactor, to a man who had formerly saved him from want.

There was an end of the matter therefore; and Mr. Flacard left us, after having again repeated the most lively assurances of gratitude, and after having begged that I would permit him to write to me sometimes. I should have been glad to have him shewn some hospitality, but our circumstances did not permit it, and the journey I was going to take, served me for a decent excuse: besides, I carefully avoided the occasion of acquainting him with my past, and present situation.

I had never said any thing to my wife of the use I had made of these 600 dollars; the unexpected appearance of this money was, therefore, so much the more surprising to her: however, I took occasion from thence, to make both her and my children observe the care of a good Providence—to inspire them with fresh courage—and to tranquillize them on our approaching separation.

separation. I left fifty dollars with them—I destined another fifty for my journey—and the remaining five hundred I put up in a little bag, in the hopes of purchasing my son's freedom with it. The same day I set off in the post coach.

My readers are, perhaps, afraid, that I am going to treat them, for the third time in this book, with the description of a journey; but that will not be the case. I must, also, acknowledge, that although I set out in a pretty tranquil state of mind, yet I was not in such a disposition, that the objects around me could interest me much. But I must, however, make mention of an event that befel me on the way, and which had like to have had disagreeable consequences for me.

I travelled day and night, in spite of the uncomfortable autumnal weather, in order to get to the end of my journey the sooner, and to save expence. But neither body or soul were accustomed to any extraordinary exertion, and I therefore found myself constrained, when I arrived in the evening at ***, to remain there, in order to take care of my health, which I found affected, till the next day of the departure of the post coach. I had got a violent fever, and
longed

longed for a bed. I was shewn to an inn, which, as it was exactly the time of the great annual fair, was full of merchants from different places, and other people; however, I got a clean little chamber on the second story. I asked for some tea, which the very talkative inn-keeper brought me himself. As he saw that I was very feverish, he assured me, that there had been a man in his house for some days, who performed miraculous cures, without receiving a farthing reward, and who would quickly restore me to health. All my refusals were in vain; I was obliged to consent to see the strange doctor;—he went to fetch him.

As the light blinded my eyes, which were affected by the violence of the pain in my head, I had entirely excluded it at the foot of the bed; when, therefore, the wonderful man appeared, I could not clearly see his countenance. He sat himself down by me, felt my pulse, and then began a learned discourse.—“All disorders in the human body,” said he, among other things, “arise principally from this, that by means of some external cause, the proper harmony between the earthly being and the true Archæus is destroyed. Therefore, it is necessary to combat the preponderance of
 o the

the material part; and to call upon the great Spirit of the world, at the same time, that he may work with more force on the Spiritus Rector. For this effect the blessed elementary Equinoctial Balsam, prepared by the instructor, is of service, above all things."

"I beg, sir," said I, interrupting him, "that you will permit me one question; have I not the honour of seeing in you, the Mr. Pechlat, whom, once on a journey"—

"I am he, sir," he replied, without letting me finish what I was going to say; and now he continued his learned dissertation. But as I rather wanted repose, than instruction in sublime wisdom, I begged him to defer the rest of his discourse till the next morning; and to leave me now alone. He did that unwillingly; and not without forcing on me a little glass of drops, which I was determined not to take.

Sleep, of which I was much in want, came and refreshed me till the day broke; and with the day came also the mystic philosopher. He was just going to begin where he left off yesterday, when a violent noise in the room next mine interrupted our conversation. The noise continued to grow louder and louder in the house; and, at last, my door was opened with violence—

violence—a number of men entered and arrested us both, by the command of the magistrates. I obliged them, with difficulty, to explain the reason of their conduct; which was, that a merchant in the next room to mine, had been robbed, during the night, of a great sum of money, and many valuables; and as there was no one slept in the same story, except me and Mr. Pechflat, and as he had already excited some suspicion, which by his acquaintance with me, fell also on my person, they thought they ought, before all things, to secure us. They contented themselves, however, with guarding each of us separately in our own chamber, after having seized every thing that belonged to us.

Conscious as I was of my innocence, I might have remained perfectly easy; but the crooked paths of Justice, in most of the States in Germany, were sufficiently known to me, and I feared lest the examination of the affair might take up time, by which means, I should not only be delayed in my so necessary journey, but also my family might be thrown into the greatest anxiety. However, it went off better than I expected. Indeed, the considerable sum

of money found on me, which did not seem to agree with my humble appearance, in other respects, excited some suspicion against me. But I related, with the unembarrassed manner, derived from a good conscience, the circumstances which had occasioned my journey—had, by good luck, the letter of my son, and that of his master with me :—our Judge was, which is not always the case, a man of sound judgment, knowledge of mankind, and benevolence ; and, what decided the matter, the man of miracles, Mr. Pechlat, acknowledged himself as the author of the theft, after a part of the money and valuables, which had been missed, were found on him. As for what concerns the Rosicrucian philosopher, who will no more make his appearance in this book, I have since learnt, that a condemnation to the House of Correction, for the rest of his life, put an end to his mystical career. He will now, at last, be of some use to the State by making hartshorn shavings :—pity but his high and worthy directors could be put into the same state of useful activity.

As soon as the post-coach set off again, I continued my journey—came to Gera, where I sought

fought for the honest inn-keeper who had taken charge of my son's letter—got informed of the road the recruiting party had taken—and reached, without accident or adventure, the fortrefs of Glatz.



CHAP. XXII.

HAPPY EXPLANATION. HISTORY OF A MAN
THAT HAD BEEN LONG LOST. PLEASANT
PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE.

MY desire of finding again my lost son was so great, that as soon as I entered the Inn, at Glatz, although I felt myself actually unwell, and extremely fatigued, I nevertheless immediately enquired after the party of recruits that must have come here lately from Nordhausen. I was yet standing in the entrance of the Inn, and talking about it to my landlord, when a footman, in genteel livery, entered, and enquired after the Amtsrath Gutman, who was just come by the post-coach, and had given in his name at the gates. This was so much the more surprising, as I fancied I was known to no one in Glatz. But my surprise was changed into hope when the servant delivered to me the most polite message from Major von Ehrenwerth, of the
regiment

regiment of ***, (the very same to which the non-commissioned officer belonged, who had kidnapped my son) and an invitation to go to him immediately, just as I was, in my travelling dress, as it was necessary for him to speak to me. The man would not say any thing to my pressing enquiries about the recruits; I therefore repressed my curiosity and followed him.

I was introduced into a house, handsomely built, and elegantly furnished; after waiting a little while in an anti-chamber, a man about fifty years old entered:—he was in uniform, and decorated with a military order—he came up to me—held out his hand to me, in an affectionate manner, that surprised me—and said nothing more than—“You seek your son; he is well, and in the hands of a friend, and you shall now see him again.” On this, he opened the door of a closet, and my dear Gottfried sprung out—flung himself on my neck—and exclaimed to me, full of joy—“Dearest, best of fathers, how happy I am;—all our sufferings are at an end! This generous man, is not only my benefactor and saviour—he is also your brother!”

Readers of feeling will easily place themselves in my situation, at this moment, and be

able to represent to themselves, with what sensations my heart was filled at this unexpected discovery. Without, therefore, attempting to paint it, or giving a minute description of the scene that ensued, in which every thing that was as yet enigmatical to me, was explained; and we then gave loose to the expression of our joy and affection: I will rather simply relate what had happened to my son, after his march from Gera.

The non-commissioned officer who conducted the recruits, was not the same who had artfully trepanned my son; but a friendly and humane man, who was, indeed, obliged to observe his duty in not letting any one escape—but who shewed him every sort of kindness, and who boasted to him, on every occasion, of the upright way of thinking of his Major, Mr. von Ehrenwerth. Gottfried was, therefore, a little consoled: and hoped to be able to obtain his discharge from this superior officer, by representing the circumstances to him.

As soon as the party of recruits came to Glatz, and were presented to the Major, he asked every individual recruit, his name, his country, and the manner of his being enlisted. When it came to my son's turn, and he had
named

named the place of his birth, the Major sent the others out; and then enquired about so many little circumstances, that at last the discovery, so fortunate for us, was made, that this good man was no other than my brother, who had been lost four and thirty years before. But, I will relate how all this was connected together, in my brother's own words, who communicated to me his history as soon as we became a little composed.

"Perhaps thou dost not know, my dear brother," said he, "for thou wast at that time very young, that I was designed by my father, quite against my own inclination, to be a forester. The profession of a soldier had been, from my earliest childhood, the object of my wishes: and the coarse unamiable disposition of the upper forester, with whom I was to remain to learn the business, contributed, in every respect, to make the life, to which I was destined, doubly hateful to me. I wrote letters full of complaints and entreaties to my father, which were not attended to. I therefore took the resolution, in the warmth of my temper, to run away; and to open to myself another path by my own exertions."

"Not half a mile distant from the solitary
 o 5 dwelling

dwelling of the upper forester, which was situated in the middle of the woods, there was an Inn, on the high road, at which we used sometimes to breakfast when we were out hunting; and, each time, met there a couple of Austrian-recruiting officers, from the neighbouring Imperial town of ***. Their showy uniforms, and still more, their accounts of the pleasantness of a soldier's life, had made a lively impression on me. I took the resolution of putting myself under the protection of these men of war, on the first opportunity.—I found this opportunity one day when I was sent out alone;—I unboasted myself to the recruiting officers, who did not turn me away—made all kinds of advantageous terms for myself, which, as is generally the case, were immediately agreed to—took enlisting money, and was sent forward.

“The punishment for this thoughtless step, by which I certainly gave pain to my parents, soon overtook me. None of the conditions that were made with me were fulfilled. I was a musquetteer, and so I remained; and was placed in garrison in the interior parts of Hungary. In this humiliating situation I was ashamed to write home, even if I had been permitted

mitted for to do: and thus year after year passed away, till the beginning of the seven years war, when, as I wrote a good hand—had some other useful knowledge—and as no reproaches could be made on my moral conduct, I was promoted to the rank of non-commissioned officer.

“Now my ambition was awakened: I had the good fortune to distinguish myself, on various occasions, by my courage, and some presence of mind;—I was recommended to the Emperor, to be made a commissioned officer:—I rose step by step—and at the end of the war, returned into garrison with a company, letters of nobility, and this military order:—at the same time that the Emperor promoted me he changed my name.

“Soon after the peace, I got acquainted with a rich, and agreeable widow, in whose neighbourhood I was quartered;—she liked me—she gave me her hand: we lived together very happily some years: death tore her from me—she neither left behind her children or relation:—she therefore made me her sole heir, and I became possessed of a very considerable property.

“Fortune, not yet content with having
 raised

raised me so far, still continued favourable to me in my military career. I was promoted to the rank of Major :—I obtained some particular appointments, by which both honour and money were to be gained ; and thus, my dear brother, I arrived to the comfortable situation in which thou now findest me.

“ My desire of seeing again my country, and my family, was not however extinguished. I have told thee why I did not write home before the war ;—during the campaigns, however, it could not be done at all with safety. Immediately after the peace, my mind was engrossed with the plan of making a pilgrimage to the place of my nativity—of surprising my old father and mother with the appearance of a son, whom they had probably given up for lost ; but various affairs and obstructions put off the execution of this plan from time to time. I wrote, therefore, at last, to Mehlbach, but received* the letter back again, with the account on the outside that no one of my family was to be met with there any longer ; I could not
also

* The reader already knows how that happened. But, in all probability, the Major had not seen any of the papers in which advertisements were addressed to him.

also learn, at so great a distance, what was become of you all.

“ Merciful Providence has, in the mean time, fulfilled my wishes unexpectedly: and that exactly at a time when I am in circumstances to be able to assist my beloved relations, in their less comfortable situation. I am now firmly resolved never more to separate from you. I will request my discharge from the Emperor. He has officers enough in his service who possess more merit than I, and are not yet risen so high. My health declining, I long for repose, and for the air of my own country. In short, I will live with you. My property is thine, my dear brother; I deliver it, as well as myself, into thy hands. Thou art a man, who must have known, 'ere this, how money can be best employed. Only let me have nothing to do with it, but live without care in thy house, and finish my days in the midst of a happy family.”

Gratitude and joy filled my heart at the language of this dear brother. My first business was to inform my wife, by a few lines, of the lucky turn our fortune had taken; and then I proposed to the Major the plan I had formed for our future life, and which had for
its

its object, to satisfy the wishes of all, without making any of us dependent on each other. The following chapter will make the reader acquainted with it.



CHAP.

CHAP. XXXII.

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE. EXECUTION OF IT.
SUMMARY CONTINUATION OF THE FAMILY
HISTORY TILL THE PRESENT DAY. CON-
CLUSION.

THE proposal which I made to my brother was, as follows:—with his capital, to free the property of my earliest friend Fuensternuf from debt; and put him again in possession of it. The Major would then become possessed of the rights of the former creditors, of which an account was to be taken; according to which, the interest, and a certain proportion of the principal, were to be deducted yearly from the income of each estate. This arrangement would not only induce Mr. von Fuensternuf to quit the service of the Duke of ***, and settle at Mehlbach; but he would also certainly agree to let me rent the manor of Mehlbach. My brother was then to come to us; and we should
all

all live together again on the spot where we first saw the light of the day.

This scheme was exactly to the taste of my dear brother ; and we did not delay putting it in execution. Two days after, I departed with my son Gottfried, who continued firmly resolved not to forsake the business he had chosen ; his arrival at Nordhausen occasioned the most lively joy in his master's house. The only daughter of the honest Mr. Martin, a modest, genteel, well educated girl, who liked the young man as much as he was devoted, with his whole soul, to her, was particularly rejoiced at his return. A little while afterwards he was admitted into the corporation of Cabinet-makers, and went on his travels, as the laws of those corporations require. He returned a few years since a clever, sensible young man, and provided with knowledge of the world suitable to his situation. His Earnesta had remained true and faithful to him ;—the old father, who was a little worn out, and wished for repose, gave up the business to him ;—Gottfried became master Cabinet-maker—married the mistress of his heart—has led ever since a very active and happy life at Nordhausen—and has lately made me a grand-father.

From

From Glatz, I went a little out of my way to make my friend Fuerstenruf the proposal that concerned him. It did not require much persuasion to induce him to accede to it; and in a few weeks every thing was settled with the creditors he had inherited. The lawyer Mr. Hamsterfield, was the person the least contented with this arrangement. I believe it shortened his days, for he died soon after of the apoplexy.

As soon as Mr. von Fuerstenruf was again in possession of his property, he let me farm not only Mehlbach, but also all his other manors: and as my son Daniel is now quite grown up, I have placed him on one of them, which he manages with propriety and regularity. He now only wants a good wife; but that also, I think, will soon be found, for he is an excellent, as well as an agreeable and lively lad: and understands agriculture as well as any one.

My daughter has, by her behaviour, ever since her return to her parents, for ever effaced the remembrance of her misconduct. A very virtuous and clever physician in the neighbourhood, who often visits us, has an attachment to her, and has lately asked her hand. As yet
the

the girl affects to hesitate a little, but I know she will soon say yes, for the physician is nothing less than indifferent to her. I wish I could give the reader as agreeable an account of Julia's former companion, Mademoiselle von Bittenberg; but, alas! that cannot be.—The worthless man who carried her off, hoped that at last, her parents would be induced to come forward with a sum of money; but they would never hear any thing again of their ill-advised child. The singer now found that he had made, at least, as foolish a match as his noble wife; and this so much the more, as her talents for the theatre, which at first seemed to promise something, did not afterwards improve. He, therefore, one day, made a little bundle of his and her best things, and set off and left her. From this time, his wretched wife, who still travels about Germany with the company of ~~her~~, as a very indifferent actress, has abandoned herself to a kind of life, that must unavoidably one day, end in want, too late repentance, and despair.

I should, however, have been only half happy, had I not succeeded in occasioning a change in the temper of mind of the friend of my youth; but this pleasure also was reserved for

for me. At first, I let him go on his own way undisturbed. He lived in a very solitary manner at Mehlbach: however, he was not in want of occupations that gave pleasure to his heart. His peasantry, who during the unconscientious administration of his property, had been extremely oppressed, soon became the object of his truly paternal care; as he began to feel that there are still in the world people capable of gratitude and attachment; if not in palaces, at least in thatched cottages. All his peasantry love and venerate him.

But I could not bear the idea that so excellent a man should never taste the best domestic joys; for that reason then I formed a plan, in which I also succeeded. I found, by closer observation, that the remembrance of the first object of his affection, was not yet obliterated from his heart. "And what hinders, then," said I to myself, "that too such good souls, formed for each other, should not be united?—she is a widow—he is single, and sufficiently rich." On that, I resolved to make my first attempt as a match-maker; and without boasting, I conducted myself, on the occasion, like an old practitioner.

The kindness, never to be forgotten, which
 Madame

Madame von Meinan had shewn my daughter Julia, gave me a kind of right to express my gratitude to her for it in person. Under this pretence, I went quietly to her ; and, on this occasion, effected my scheme. But how I set about it, that my readers will not hear, that they may not learn my art. Enough, that in the year 1786, the friend of my youth led his Louisa to the altar ; and I stood by in a fine new coat, and with an air of triumph. It must be expected of course, that the clergyman, Mr. Pittman, who has not yet forsaken the accursed fury of verse making, celebrated the union of the noble couple by a poem. He predicated to them both, in it, how happily and joyfully they would in future live ; and he has prophesied true.

My dear brother Ehrenwerth has lately come and settled with us, with all his property ; and now let any one, if he can, come and tell me that there is any where in the world, a circle of happier beings than we are who live together in our little village of Mehlbach.

FINIS.



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